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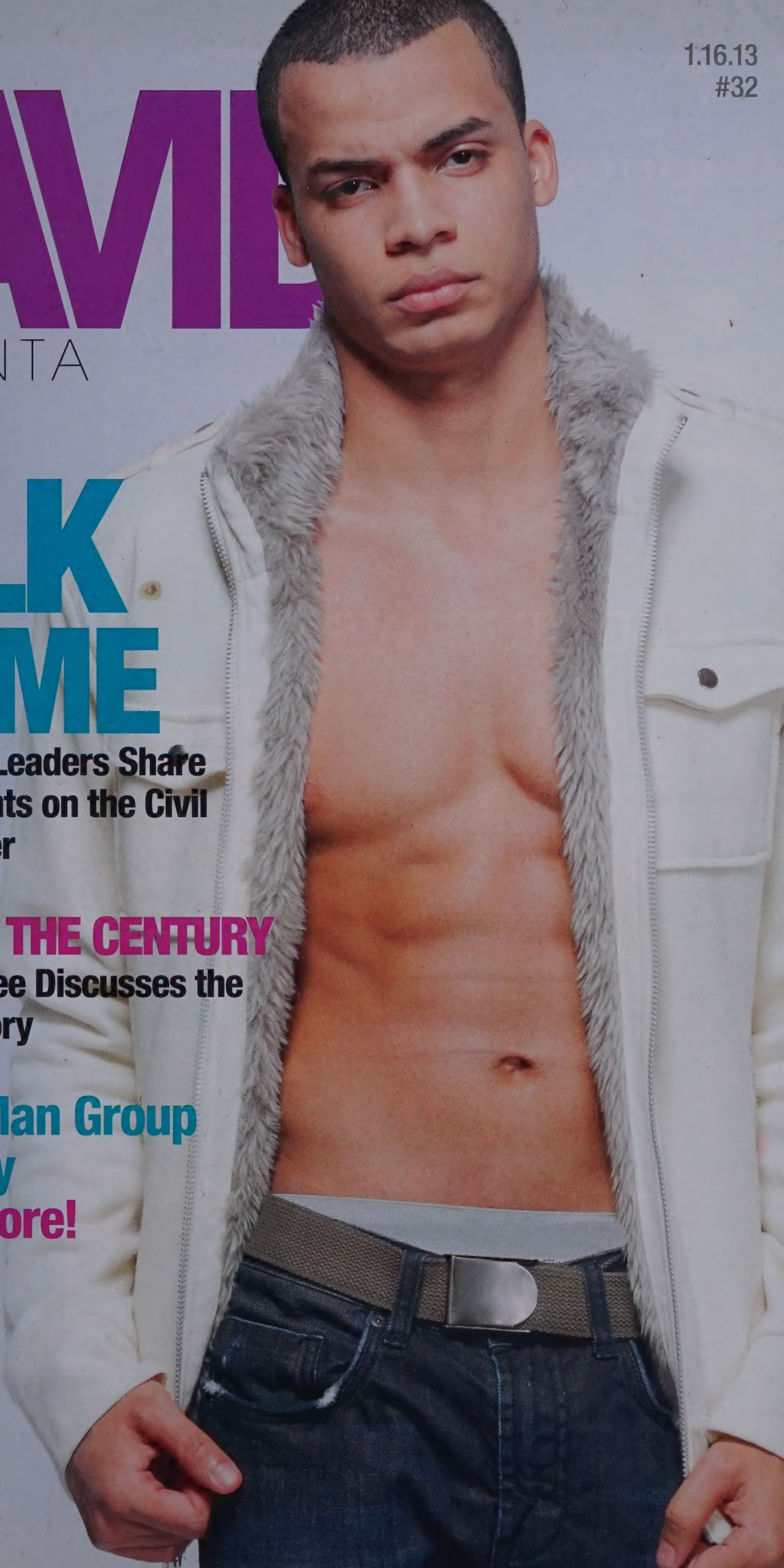

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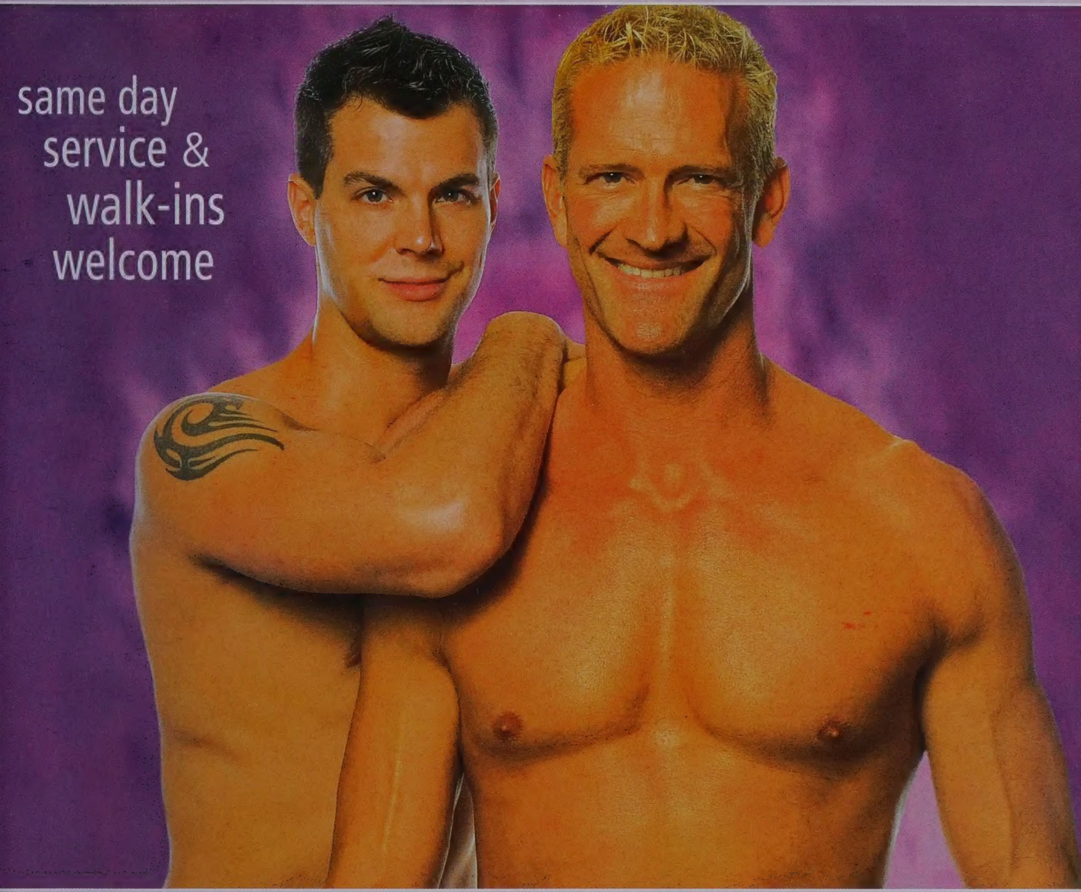

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A Note from the Edito

Equality In Our Community

It's that time of the year again - the time where we honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and discuss civil rights in our country. Okay, it's not the only time of the year we discuss civil rights, but it's one of the few consistent times, year-in and year-out, where the topic is brought up.

Within the broad LGBT community, we've made some significant strides in the past few years. Marriage equality, and all of the legal rights and privileges that come with it, finally became legal through popular vote in multiple states late last year. The Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy is gone, and will almost certainly never come back.

But is everyone in our community doing well on the same level? It depends on who you ask. In this issue, we have a few writers who think we have a lot of work to do, and I'm inclined to agree. One of my goals this year is to make this magazine even more about our community, and I want to make sure we highlight as many different areas of the community as possible. I'm putting this idea out to the public in print because I want you to keep us accountable. Let us know if you think we're not living up to this goal.

Until next time,

Elijah Sarkesian

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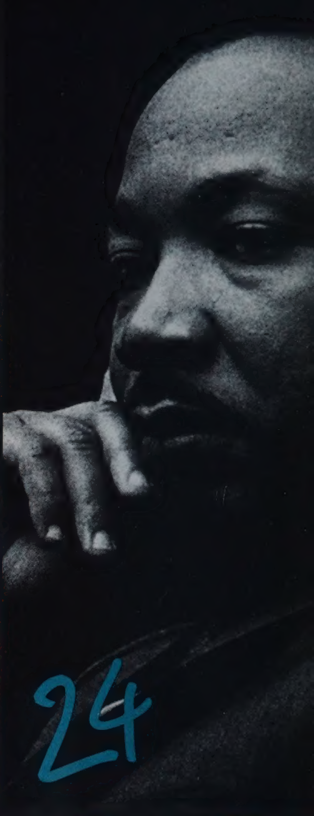

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WTF!?!? TIDBITS

By Lucas Witherspoon

Justin Bieber was secretly photographed smoking pot in a hotel room, which I presume was the result of him hearing his own music. Seriously, how could anyone like his music in a sober frame of mind? I've made some poor life choices while drunk, but none so disappointing as incoherently downloading his latest album. Once I sobered up and listened to it, I immediately went into a state of self-loathing.

Rapper ***Azealia Banks*** found herself getting flack for calling ***Perez Hilton*** "a messy faggot" over Twitter. It all started when she and some other rapper named ***Angel Haze*** got into a trivial Twitter flame war over whether or not people born in New York City have a right to call themselves true New Yorkers. That's when Perez threw in his two cents and immediately Azealia's attention was diverted to him, which led to Faggotgate. Look, I don't condone any kind of ignorant and inflammatory language, but if there's one gay guy who deserves to be called a faggot, isn't it Perez Hilton? Especially considering when he got punched in the face by will.i.am (the only valuable thing will.i.am has offered society) after allegedly calling him a faggot. Azealia backtracked and clarified that she should have called him a cunt instead, but as a cunt, I don't even think Perez is worthy of the title.

Heidi Montag and ***Spencer*** Pratt are in London to participate in the UK version of *Celebrity Big Brother.* Spencer explained how he plans to win: "My game plan is to make everyone just want to quit and leave." Well, he's certainly mastered the art of annoying people. Now seems as good a time as any to revoke their passports. We now have to deal with ***Piers Morgan***, so forcing the Brits to keep them seems like an adequate punishment.

Speaking of which, ***Lindsay Lohan*** is also in London, but for an entirely different reason. ***Prince Aziz***—third in line for the throne of Brunei and well-known for his lavish, celebrity-laden parties—reportedly paid Lilo $100,000 to attend his New Year's Eve bash, in addition to paying for her posh accommodations while she's in town. If I were paying $100,000 for Lilo's presence, it had better be full-on drunken, coked out, hot mess Lohan. I'd fully expect her to start looting guests before topping off the night by punching someone in the face.

Kevin Federline's younger brother, ***Christopher***, alleged to *The National Enquirer* that not only did ***Britney Spears*** steal his credit card and rack up $4,500 in charges, but that he's also the father of her son, Sean Preston. "Christopher claimed in court docs that when he followed up on the alleged theft -- which accounted to more than $4,500 in charges – 'Britney … laughed at me [and] told me my brother Kevin ruined her life. Britney made fun of me and told me I have a small penis.'" Clearly this story doesn't check out, not because it's a ludicrous allegation to begin with, but because I refuse to believe that any credit card company would ever extend a Federline enough of a line of credit for Britney to have charged $4,500.

photo: Ben Watts

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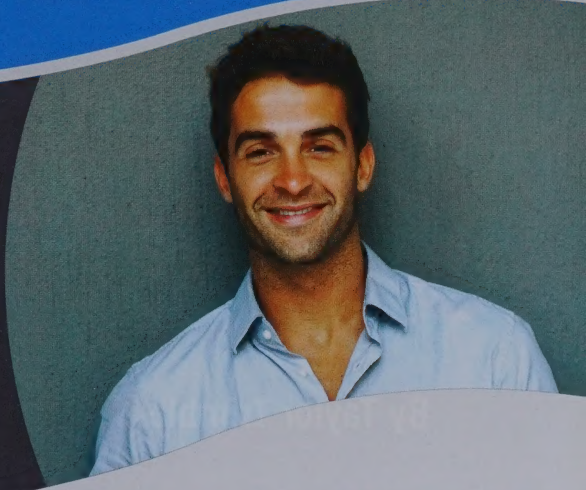

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OPINION

WHOSE MOVEMENT IS THIS?

By Taylor Trimble

To say we haven't come a long way from the riots of the fifties and sixties, Stonewall, and the AIDS epidemic (which we are still struggling with), would be to ignore decades of fierce queer resistance and a slough of legislation that has enabled us with protections galore. However, when looking at the condition of the modern "gay" civil rights movement, can we really say that "all of us" have come a long way and felt that progression?

The "gay" civil rights movement has increasingly become a front led by white, cis gay males, and of course, their issues and interests have become the issues of the community, such as the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and the mammoth fight for same-sex marriage (which, admittedly isn't just a white, cis gay male's interest, but has definitely been framed and promoted as one). Stepping back and looking at the representation of the LGBTQIQA community, it's hard to see any inclusion of any group outside of the G, and occasionally the L. This is where the chasm between the "gay" civil rights movement and the queer civil rights/liberation movement becomes painfully visible.

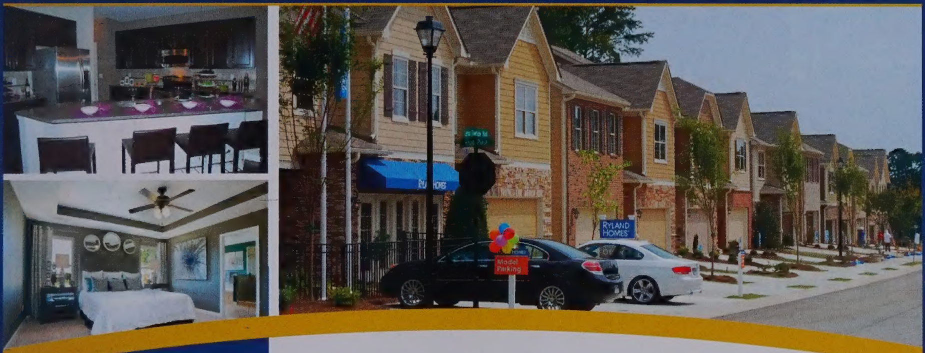
It's blatantly obvious that the trans* community, which I am a part of, has felt everything but forgotten by the gay community, from our issues—nationwide coverage of HRT (hormone replacement therapy), GRS (gender reassignment surgery)—to full legal acknowledgement of our identities on legal documents, like driver's licenses, and so much more.

However, it's not even just trans* issues that seem to be forgotten about. It's also issues like homelessness amongst queer youth, the rising numbers of queer folks contracting HIV, the inclusion of our histories in public schools, treatment of queer folks (namely trans* folks) in prisons and jails, sex work and how it affects the queer community, and even the spaces available to the community by the community—bars, clubs, bookstores, resource centers, hangouts—and who they are geared towards (mainly white, cis gay males).

You will rarely, if not never, hear discussions about these issues by mainstream "LGBT" groups like the HRC and such.

If we are to truly step back and measure the progress that the community has made, I am sure the disproportionality between the progress made by the gay community and the progress of the rest of the acronym would serve as a testament to the state of the queer civil rights movement. Why do we think it's called the "gay" civil rights movement, and no longer the queer civil rights/liberation movement? (Because "gay" was easier to explain and sell than "queer" to politicians and the general American public).

We, as a community, truly need to reorganize and focus ourselves quickly, or the divide between communities, made due to selfish self-interest, will surely destroy any sense of community and any hope of widespread queer liberation and civil rights. It's not that hard to do, and it's not too late.



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I Believe What I Don't Believe

By Sam Peng

Our minds work like wonders. Optical illusions, preconceived notions, or even the mere fondness for the color of red are some of the humanistic qualities we possess in determining who we are, how we judge, and what we believe. We arrive at a certain juncture of a solidified state of mind and unique personality through years of observations, educations, and discussions. In the end, we believe what was given to us by the very raw nature of what was being presented to us. In your head, you believe that a boy with blond hair is beautiful.

Well, have you ever wondered why that some people don't agree with what you think? You get so sickened and disgusted by the idea of knowing that there are people out there who do not believe what you believe. The answer to that question really lies right within you – you subconsciously have become a victim of media manipulation.

Pay attention. Media manipulation is all around us. Ryan Holiday from *Forbes* declares, "Media manipulation currently shapes everything you read, hear, and watch online. Everything." It is the very same notion behind the backbone of governmental propagandas, cultural indifferences, and notorious stereotypes. No, not all Asians are good at math. I know I am not. No, not all girls with big breasts are dumb. And no, the archetype of a hot, beautiful, sexy man is not defined by "a white man, blond hair, tanned body, and chiseled definitions" in all his masculinity. But we tend to think so, anyway. Why is that? Allow me to be specific.

People named Bradley Cooper America's sexiest man of 2012. Of the top twelve men, one is black, the rest white, seven of them blond (where are my people?!?). Of the top ten contestants at last year's Miss America, all but two were white. Lastly, America's number one rated television show, *The Big Bang Theory*, features a cast of seven vibrant, youthful individuals. With the exception of Raj, everyone else is white.

In essence, we are fed information on a daily basis with or without our consent. Even when we don't try, this information we gather gets imbedded into our brain and it alters the way we perceive on a subconscious level. In other words, regardless of how much one may persuade me into thinking the antithesis of what I believe, I will always think that "blond white dude is the best looking man in here."

To borrow his quote and to honor his historical achievement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "Everything that we see is a shadow cast by that which we do not see."

Allegorically speaking – once upon a time, there was a young man who lived in a small town and saw beauty within everyone. Seeking grander things, he packed and left and moved to a metropolis. He watched and learned, heard and studied. Over night, what he believed he no longer believed. What he loved became dark shadows of their former selves when he lost sight of what stood beneath the mighty, dazzling sun.

We all have our preferences, and those preferences should be dealt with respect. However, would you ever one day pick up the courage and believe in something that you have never believed in? Would you ever take that giant leap of faith to combat your inner trust? If you answered, "Yes, I would," then guess what? I just manipulated you.

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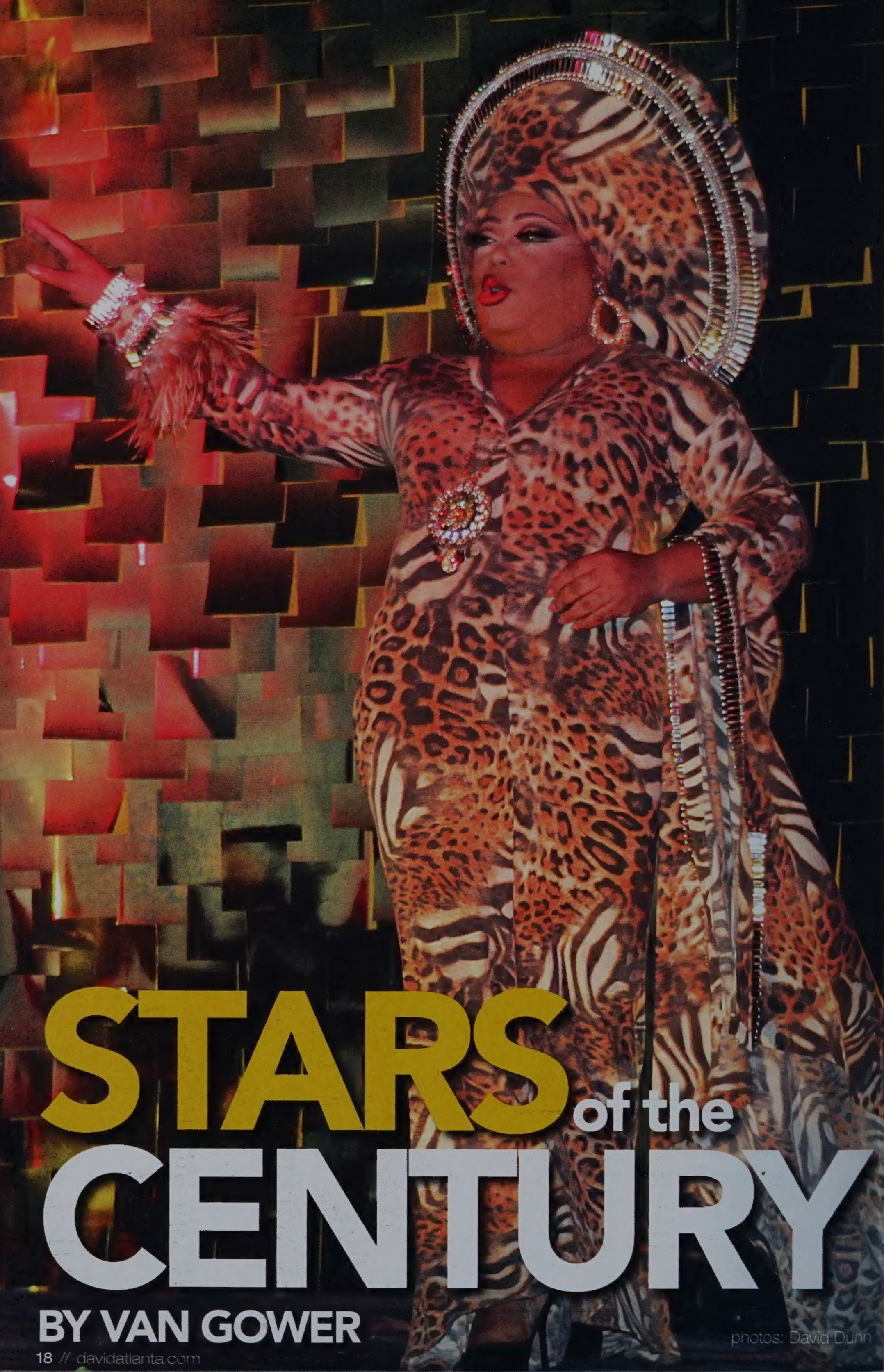

STARS of the CENTURY

BY VAN GOWER

photos: David Dunn

In a gay mecca like Atlanta, choosing from the diverse homegrown entertainment offerings can sometimes be a herculean task. Even with the uneven economy of the past several years, many venerable bars and nightclubs have managed to keep their doors open when others have come and gone.

In those hotspots, numerous drag troupes still perform to packed houses. And this year, one of those troupes, Stars of the Century, led by the inimitable Niesha Dupree, celebrates is thirteenth anniversary.

Dupree created Stars of the Century in 2000, when it premiered at Traxx Atlanta. It remained there for the next six years. Dupree's motivation behind the founding of the show was not so much about establishing sole stardom for herself than it was about giving her sisters a place where they could all shine as well. Her goal was especially important when those divas were sometimes given short shrift by club owners.

"It was a time when entertainers needed a show and atmosphere where they were respected and compensated for their hard work and contributions to the art," Dupree says. "Entertainers were always the ones who used to help bring customers and awareness to new clubs, but when the clubs got off and running, the entertainers were often put on the back burner as an afterthought. So I decided to step out on faith, share my vision with all entertainers who were working at that time, and create my own cast."

In addition to Dupree, the original Stars of the Century cast included Sophia McIntosh, Dominique Rashad, Stasha Sanchez, Raquell Lord, Necole Luv Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Tamisha Iman, and the late Basia. And at the beginning, they would need to do it primarily for the love of their art.

"I informed them all there was no start-up money, there were twelve of us and if we made twelve dollars, we each would leave with a dollar. I feel we had to have each other's backs in order to rise collectively," Dupree says.

With such a cast of established and talented performers – many of whom have included regional and national pageant titleholders, including from Black Universe, Black America, Black USA, USofA, Renaissance, and many others – the emphasis was on Stars of the Century not being a one-note, typical show. Rather than being a lip-sync showcase, it was a complete extravaganza of monologues, production numbers, and illusions, according to Dupree, "which was a struggle because none of the entertainers wanted to pursue illusions. Now today, they are nationally known for their illusions."

While the illusions in many drag and female-impersonation shows are frequently characterized by outrageous antics and naughty, blue humor, just as many others have more of a glamorous old-world style where the performers lean more ladylike. Although rudeness and crudeness may almost be de rigueur for the former, the latter is where the Stars of the Century show has focused its energies. However, there was no conscious decision for it to consistently bow to either of those aesthetic conventions all the time.

"It was designed to be a variety show because the community consists of a variety of people. If you want to reach the community, you must have something on the menu for everyone. Every entertainer is not going to be a favorite of everyone; but the variety will help you become more successful in reaching a larger audience," Dupree says.

Another mark of uniqueness that has long characterized Stars of the Century is its inclusion of a supporting cast of hunky male performers. The muscle-bound man-candy element gives an extra boost of sexy oomph and enhances a level of variety that truly makes Stars of the Century a show with something for everyone, according to its founder.

"When I was first introduced to a professional show at the famous Illusions, it showcased Johnny Thomas, Tony Desario and Ron Sanford as male leads and it has always been my vision to keep their legacy alive," Dupree says. "It adds to the element of the show and it allows you to touch on so many different avenues of music."
The original male Stars of the Century cast members included Monte St. James, R'darius Black, and Archie Bonet.

Atlanta is world-renowned for the number and variety of its drag and female-impersonation shows, many of which have been around for years. With so much entertainment for audiences to choose from, the actual choosing can be near-overwhelming. Dupree, however, says that all drag shows have their own stamps of uniqueness and they need to maintain them if they want to stay fresh and relevant. From the beginning, she and the other Stars of the Century have kept their concept of a Vegas-style show with a new drag twist, putting in long hours of rehearsal in order to stay up-to-date with the contemporary elements they incorporate into their performances.
When a show has been going strong as long as Stars of the Century has, one might imagine there would be conflicts, arguments, and differences of opinion. This could be true especially with the frequently strong personalities one might encounter in drag and female-impersonation shows. For the Stars of the Century, though, any flare-ups are only temporary bumps in the road.

"I don't think they are diva conflicts. Each person is the owner and creator of his or her brand, and may have a different, if any, vision on the direction they want to move in," Dupree says. "They may lose focus of why they started or let others cause them to find flaws in other to lift themselves up, but once reality steps in, they become a better person and a stronger bond is forged. So yes, we have definitely had our share plus regarding gossip and jealousy, but the family is stronger because we worked through them all."

That family bond also extends to the tradition of longtime drag superstars who are "mothers" to up-and-coming "daughters" who are trying to establish careers. According to Dupree, the nurturing of a new generation is a legacy and a duty that current performers must claim if they do not want the female-impersonation industry to die.

"Someone gave each and every one of us an opportunity, a lesson, a dress, or a wig. We should now and forever pay it forward," she says. "I had to get my tubes tied because I have too many offspring!"

Of Atlanta's current big-name drag superstars who got started in Stars of the Century, most have remained with the cast and are now mothers. Many of them have, in turn, benefited from the maternal wisdom and training by a host of drag legends including Tina DeVore, Charlie Brown, the Lady Chablis, Lena Lust, Shawnna Brooks, and many others.

"Remember, it takes a village," Dupree says.

Moreover, Atlanta's drag casts are particularly known for their generous hearts and charitable giving to local non-profit organizations. Stars of the Century is certainly no exception. The cast has worked with AID Atlanta, AIDS Walk Atlanta, NAESM, and the Atlanta Pride Committee. It also coordinates an annual holiday food basket drive benefiting local hospices and homeless shelters.

"We now and always will do our parts to help those in the community who fall on hard times or are faced with the loss of a loved one," Dupree says. "I think it is our duty to make a difference and a conscious effort to let everyone know that he or she matters."

But even as heartwarming as all the mother-daughter nurturing and community service efforts are, it's important to remember what makes Niesha Dupree and the other Stars of the Century so much fun in the first place. They are, first and foremost, entertainers, and their shows are celebrations of life and the art of female impersonation.

That said, audiences should come to a Stars of the Century show expecting a place to party and "let go" for a night.

"They will get laughter, productions, blasts from the pasts, top ten, gospel, and an occasional celebrity pop-in," Dupree says. "We will always strive to bring you a great show experience but only God knows. He has blessed us for 13 years and we look forward to whatever direction he wants to take us in."

Stars of the Century
Mondays, 11 p.m.
The Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Road N.E.
Reservations: 678-596-7044 (Mondays by 2:00 p.m.)
http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Stars-Of-The-Century/314900862627?fref=ts

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Sun 12:30pm - DJ's B Mary Bar

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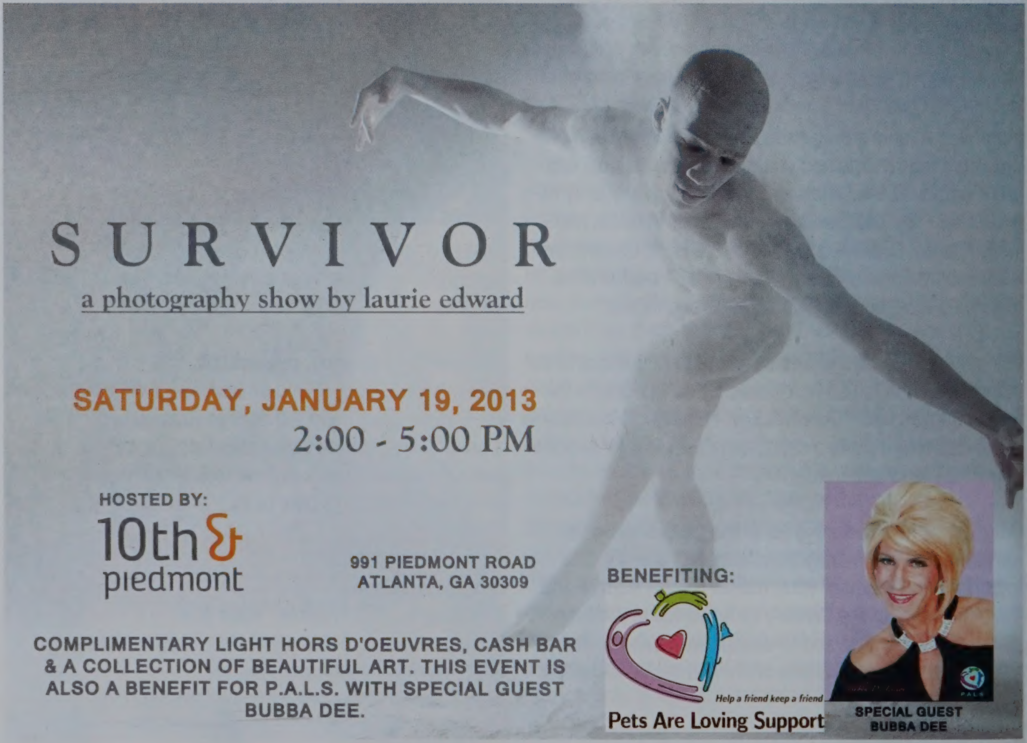
find rules at friendsonponce-atl.com



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a photography show by laurie edward

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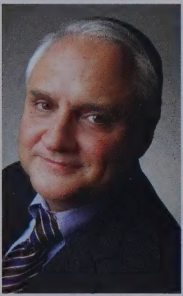
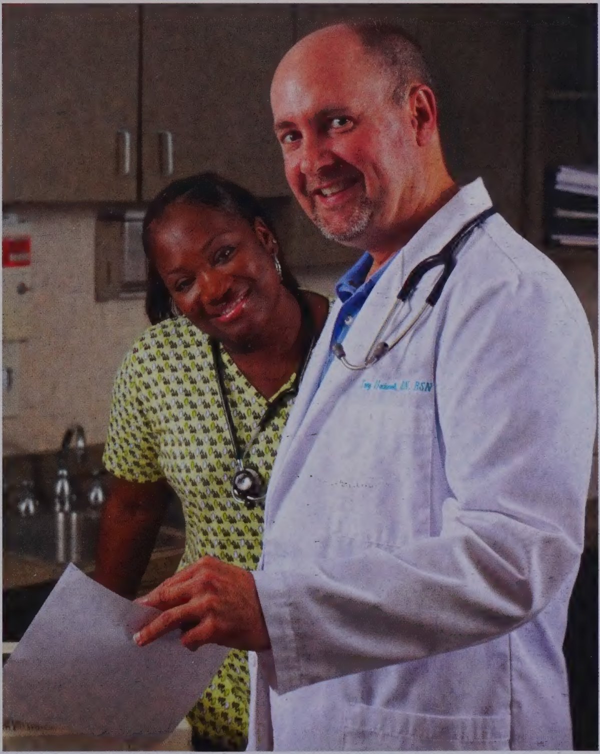


David H. Morris
MD, Medical Director,
Family Practice,
Certified HIV Specialist

Rodney Fox
Nurse Practitioner,
Certified HIV Specialist



Nurse Practitioner Terry Hackworth is shown with Jacarda Smith, Certified Medical Assistant.

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MLK TO ME

Community Organizers Share Their MLK Reflections

By Joseph Brownell

Raymond R. Duke
Prevention Services Program Manager
of STAND Inc.

Martin Luther King Jr. means a lot to me; he reminds me of where and who I was. MLK was killed 6 days before my 6th birthday, so what I learned of him was through school book reports, Black History month speeches, PBS specials, MLK holiday specials and sermons from various pulpits.

I read his "dream" speech. It did everything but tell me of the unmentioned "nightmares" that must have come before that historic night when he had the now famous and iconic dream.

MLK to me meant that I had to have my own dreams, and persevere in the midst of all the pre- and post-nightmares that would surround them. It meant that no matter what challenges and experiences I would face after the morning of April 4, 1968; I would now have in my possession an unformed mantle of responsibility to be the best I could possibly be in spite of and because of the good, bad, and indifferent that would be my future.

Being male, black, and clinically homosexual and socially gay, MLK means I still need to work to be the best I can be, because like Mr. King, I experience the struggled with what people feel was my lot in life and what others thought I should and/or should not do, the opposition from family, peers, clergy, community and politicians.

I find it interesting that in the Black LGBTQIA, individuals are so supportive of an icon(s) they have never seen, met, or will meet. They edify what those individuals stand for and expose others to what they are passionate about in their respective causes. There is no doubting the overwhelming support that is given to those that are essentially stranger, All the while mistreating, degrading, and scandalizing those in their own community that deserve the same level of support, and ironically these are the same people that their icons would insist that they support.

All the positive and forward thinking that Martin Luther King is known for, his life and death continues to mean that I have to embrace his dream, yet realize the nightmares. How we still mistreat one another, abuse, rob, disrespect and commit crimes upon one another. This was not MLK's dream for our future! I'm moved by compassion each time our president is disrespected by his peers and his constituents; he's been called names so vile as to border on criminal. Even simply addressing him as Mr. Obama instead of President Obama is an insult and it's obvious that it is due to the color of his skin, so no matter what MLK means to me, I still have to dream in the presence of the nightmares.

Mario D. Harris II
CEO of Wassup N ATL

We all have seen on television or heard on the radio the famous Martin Luther King I Have a Dream speech, but in that speech these words stuck to my heart the most:

"Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed."

And then 10 years ago I started on faith and with the idea that things were going to change for our community, for our culture, for black gay men, and with that faith I have built and will continue to build the Wassup N ATL Brand.

I started In Atlanta and have taken the Wassup N ATL brand to Washington DC, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, North Carolina, New Orleans, Orlando and we are still working to become a national name. *We have a dream* that the black gay community can come together to strengthen our community as a whole. We want to celebrate and collaborate without typical drama, and stereotypes that come with our culture. Dr. King's dream, was every black, white and Asian person's dream, that one day, maybe one day, we can come together as a community and simply be that- a community of men.

Martin Luther King day is more than a holiday to me; it's a legacy to live by.

AnotherFamilyAffair.com

Melissa Scott
CEO of Traxx Girls

In the eyes of Traxx Clubs International, the Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend is a time to remember, it is a time to celebrate and it is a time to act.

We should remember that this was the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation, led by one of the greatest leaders of this world- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. We must remember to be grateful for how far we have come as a race, as a community and as human beings. It is a time to remember the injustices and discrimination our forefathers endured due to the color of their skin and due to their sexuality. The King Holiday is a time to remember brotherhood because so often we forget. Most of all, it is a time to remember to have faith that we, the LGBT Community, will one day have justice and equality.

King Weekend is a time to act. It is a time to maintain and uphold the fight for the riches of freedom and the security of justice. It is a time to act and not tolerate discrimination, abuse or degradation due to our sexuality or race. It is time to act and demand equality.

Since we truly have been blessed we see the King Holiday as time to celebrate. We have come an awfully long way, so we rejoice and celebrate life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is a time to celebrate a new beginning and the freedom to be who we want to be. It is our time to celebrate democracy and citizenship in the United States of America.

This holiday weekend is a time to let freedom ring in this great nation of ours. Moreover, we feel, it is a time to remember, celebrate and act upon his dream.

Juan and Gee Session-Smalls

Owners of G.SPOT Productions

The MLK holiday is a one of remembrance, reflection, and appreciation; an opportunity to pay homage to the man that had a dream where one day all men would be considered equal, and led the fight to making that dream a reality. It was a fight of love. It was a fight of valor. Most importantly, it was a fight of non-violence. As we take stock in ourselves, our community, and our country, we realize that we share Dr. King's dream. His was a dream for racial and economic parity; ours is one for Gay Rights.

Dr. King, through his teachings and work, has inspired us to stand tall in the battle for equal rights for the LGBT community. Similarly to him, we have taken the social responsibility to spread a message of love, kindness, and acceptance; a message where "justice for all" is not a fallacy but normality. We wholeheartedly believe that every man and woman has the freedom to LOVE whomever they choose regardless of sexual orientation and credit Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for being the example of the immense courage it takes to tackle this daunting task.

So, as we celebrate another MLK holiday we salute the genius and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his heroic quest for equality. We realize that our very existence as a black, gay, married couple can be directly attributed to his efforts. As we carry out our calling, his ideals resonate within us. The principals of dignity and discipline are the plains upon which we stand, just as he did. And although we might sing a slightly different song of freedom, the melody clearly remains the same; "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Juan & Gee Session-Smalls invite you to the annual Black Tie Fundraiser "The Gentlemen's Ball" (www.GentlemensBallAtl.com). Also check out LoveWorks, a blog that spreads the message of LOVE and EQUALITY while offering dating & relationship advice to all that will listen. You can follow them here: www.facebook.com/LoveWorkswithJuanGee

ROCKSTARS RSP
PRODUCTION

JuJu Rock

CEO RockStars Production

Atlanta for Achievements in Black (AIB) returns for its third year and promises to be a historical celebration. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is considered the formative figure in the modern fight for civil rights, and his legacy looms large in the work of all those who follow him in his cause. AIB was created to honor Dr. King's Legacy and to honor those who have followed in his path to push America to fulfill its promise of equal rights for all. AIB is a celebration that welcomes all who are interested in honoring the life of Dr King and his legacy by recommitting ourselves to keeping his dream alive.

AIB will be extraordinary in part because the same weekend we honor Dr King, President Barack Obama will make history and be sworn in for a second term. We expect thousands of men from around the country to join us in Atlanta for what promises to be a historical event.

AIB begins Thursday 01.17.13 and ends Monday 01.21.13. The celebration consists of various daytime, evening and nightlife events. There's something for everyone, particularly those that like to PARTY!

To purchase weekend passes and see a list of activities please visit www.rockstarsproduction.com.
For additional info email vip@rockstarsproduction.com
JuJu Rock and the Men of RockStar look forward to celebrating with you.

MLK Weekend (and beyond)

Community Events

Rustin/Lorde Breakfast
Monday Jan, 21st, 10 a.m.
St. Mark United Methodist Church
781 Peachtree St., Atlanta GA 30308

MLK March and Rally
Monday Jan. 21st , 2 p.m.
Assembly at 1:15
Peachtree and Baker St./Xenora Clayton Way

Nightlife

Wassup N ATL Presents MLK Weekend 2013
5 Parties / 5 Nights
Kicks off Thursday Jan. 17th at Phase One with all-male strip show
For more information and to purchase a $50 club hopper pass visit http://mlkweekend.eventbrite.com/#

Traxx Clubs Presents International Male Events
Celebrating Thursday-Saturday at XS Ultra Lounge
708 Spring St., Atlanta, GA 30308
Artist/Celebrity Host for Saturday TBA
More info at www.traxxatlanta.com

Traxx Girls Presents MLK Weekend
Thursday Jan. 17th XS Ultra Lounge Turnt Up Thursdays
708 Spring St., Atlanta, GA 30308

Friday Jan. 18th My Sister's Room Banjee Dance Party
1271 Glenwood Ave., Atlanta, GA 30316
Saturday Jan. 19th Secret Party at Club Rain
448 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30312

Sunday Jan. 20th Showtime Sunday at Scores
2425 Wesley Chapel Rd., Atlanta, GA 30335

More info at www.traxxgirls.com

Rockstars Production Presents Achievements in Black MLK Holiday Weekend (AIB)
5 Parties/ 4 Nights
Kicks off Thursday Jan. 17th
For passes and full list of events visit http://www.rockstarsproduction.com/MLK_Weekend_-_ATL.php

G.SPOT Productions Presents 2nd Annual Gentlemen's Ball
Saturday Jan 26th, 7 p.m.
Mason Murer Art Gallery
199 Armour Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30324
Tickets available at http://gentlemensball2013.eventbrite.com/#

photo: Laurie Edward

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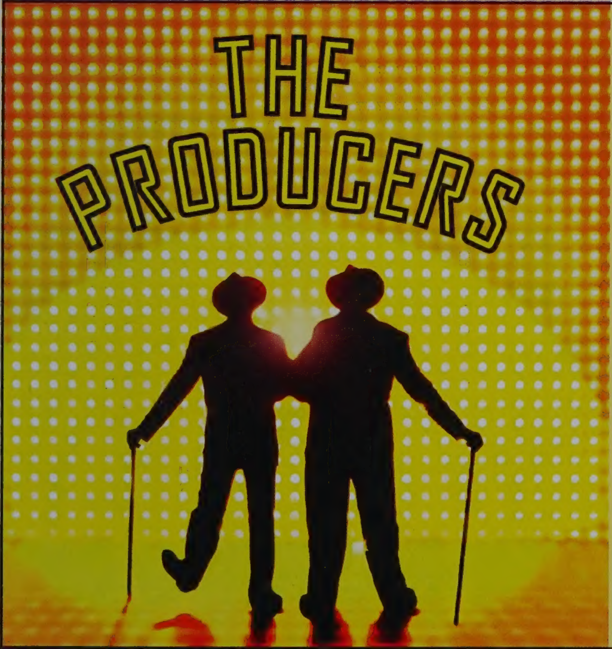

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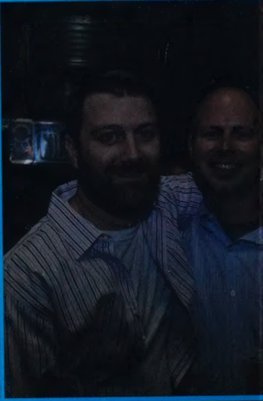

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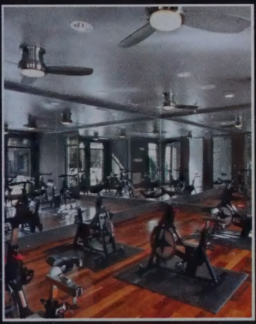

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JAN 18 - Classic Blake's Til 9PM With Doug / Charlie's Angels 11PM

JAN 19 - "Hot Rod Killer DJ " Upstairs/ Daring Diva's On The Main Stage

JAN 20 - High Energy Sunday With Guest DJ MIKE POPE 7PM til Close

JAN 21 - CASH! CASH! CASH! : Game Night With Wild Cherry Sucret

JAN 22 - SPEED DATING Upstairs From 8 -10PM

JAN 23 -

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MONDAY

BLAKE'S Game Night - Brain Freeze Trivia & Family Feud back to back 11:30pm
BURKHART'S Blue Monday Karaoke w/ Angelica D'Paige 11:30pm
COCKPIT Big Red Cup All Day, specials
EAGLE Comedy TV- Free Pool
FELIX'S Free Pool
FRIENDS DJ opens at 2pm
GILBERT'S Half Priced Entrees 5-11PM
HERETIC Play w/ Eddie 4pm-11pm
HIDEAWAY $2.50 Domestic Beer
HOBNOB Date Night 19.95 3 course dinner for two 5-11PM
JUNGLE Stars of the Century Show 11pm
MODEL T Monday Night Madness 9pm
OSCAR'S Midtown Martini Club 4pm. Service Industry Night 9pm
TRIPP'S Monday Night Madness 9pm
WOOF'S Texas Hold 'Em Poker 8pm

TUESDAY

BLAKE'S POP! Karaoke with Princess Charles & Suzanne Gleeson 11pm
BURKHART'S Trivia Tuesday Karaoke w/ Angelica D'Paige 11:30pm
COCKPIT 80s Party 9pm, specials 5-8pm
EAGLE Tuesdays w/ Tony
FELIX'S Smirnoff Martini Night
FRIENDS Let's Make a Deal 6pm
GILBERT'S Industry Night (complementary pizza after 10pm)
HERETIC 2-Step Tuesday, dance till 11pm
HIDEAWAY TEAM Trivia w/ Will 9pm
HOBNOB Trivia 8:30
MIXX Piano with David Reeb at 8pm
MODEL T Texas Hold'em Poker 9:30pm
OSCAR'S Show Tune Tuesday 8pm
SWINGING RICHARDS 1/2 Price cover
TRIPP'S Ladies Night 9pm
WOOF'S Industry Day Free Wii 5pm

WEDNESDAY

BLAKE'S 5-9pm Doug's party pop hits, The "Lust and Bust Show" 11 pm
BURKHART'S Humpday Karaoke w/ Darlene Majewski 11:30pm
COCKPIT Balls Deep Karaoke 10pm
EAGLE 80's Music w/ Travis
FRIENDS Team Trivia 8pm
GILBERT'S Karaoke 10pm-2am
HERETIC 25¢ Keystone Light ,No Cover!
HIDEAWAY Trivia w/ Will 9pm
JUNGLE Big Gay Game Show 3rd Wed
MODEL T Karaoke 10pm
OSCAR'S ReBooT Retro 8pm
SWINGING RICHARDS 2-4-1 VIP Room
TRIPP'S Free Taco Bar 5pm
XCESS ULTRA LOUNGE Raquell Lord's Talent Show @ 10:30pm, Sophia Mcintosh & Fab 5 +1 @11:30pm, 18+
WOOF'S Food Special, Trivia 8pm

THURSDAY

BLAKE'S Texas Hold'Em Poker 7pm, Shawnna Factor Show 11pm - $5.00 burgers all day
BURKHART'S Twisted Thursday w/ Phoenix 11:30pm
COCKPIT Dirty Boy Bingo w/ Ruby Redd
EAGLE Karaoke w/ Mikey
FELIX'S Karaoke w/ Brett & Tyler 10pm
FRIENDS Girls Who Like Girls Meet Girls
GILBERT'S Wine tasting 6-10pm
HERETIC 3 Legged Cowboy Night 9pm
HIDEAWAY Service Industry Night
HOBNOB Live Music 8-11PM
JUNGLE Cherry Pop Thursday!
MIXX Mens Night with Aaron & Matt at 6 pm
MODEL T Party-Time 9pm
OSCAR'S Kickin It w/ Kyle 8pm
SWINGING RICHARDS 2-4-1 VIP & Entry
TRIPP'S Spotlight Karaoke 9pm
XCESS ULTRA LOUNGE Turnt Up Thursday
WOOF'S Food Special, Country Music 7pm

FRIDAY

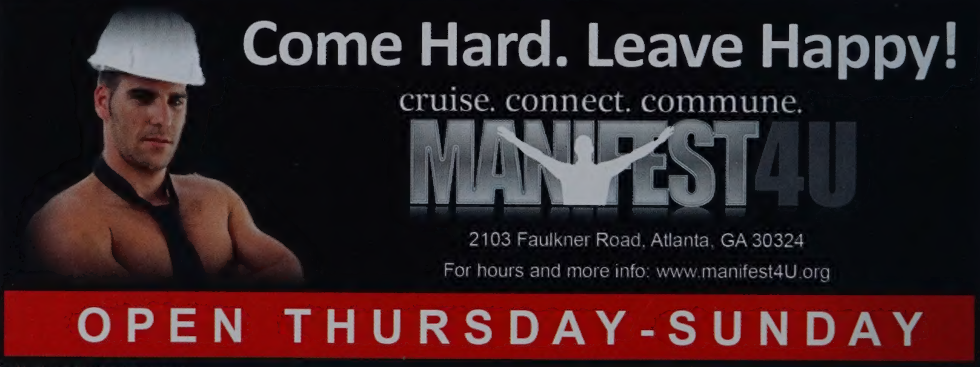
10TH & PIEDMONT Live DJ 10 PM
BLAKE'S 5-9pm TGIF, Charlie's Angels w/ Charlie Brown 11pm
BURKHART'S Fab Five w/ Angelica D'Paige 11:30pm
COCKPIT DJ Diablo Rojo, guest VJ/DJ's
EAGLE DJ Dance Party
FRIENDS Happy Times with Kelly & Ken
HERETIC no cover B4 11pm
HIDEAWAY After Work Martini Madness
JUNGLE Club Night, Various DJ's
MIXX Grown & Sexy Dance 10pm
MODEL T Saturday Night Live 9pm
OSCAR'S 80's Retro Vidz 8pm
SWINGING RICHARDS T-Shirt Review, $10
TRIPP'S Afternoon Delights 4pm
WOOF'S Atlanta's Best Social Night 6pm

SATURDAY

10TH & PIEDMONT Live DJ 10 PM
BLAKE'S opens 1pm, Daring Divas 11pm
BURKHART'S Extravaganza w/ Shavonna B. Brooks 11:30pm
COCKPIT DJ Diablo Rojo, guest VJ/DJ's
EAGLE DJ Dance Party
FELIX'S Karaoke w/ Brett & Tyler 10pm
FRIENDS Afternoon Party with D.J. Noon - 6pm
GILBERT'S All you care to eat brunch (cooked to order) 11-4pm
HERETIC Varies: Club Night or 3 Legged Cowboy Night - 10pm
JUNGLE Club Night, Various Guest DJ's.
MIXX Guest DJ's Dance 10pm
MODEL T Sunday Dinner 3:30pm
OSCAR'S Total Request Videos 8pm
SWINGING RICHARDS T-Shirt Review $10
TRIPP'S Afternoon Cookout 3pm
XCESS ULTRA LOUNGE 25+ FREE til 12am
WOOF'S Game Day All Day

SUNDAY

10TH & PIEDMONT Bellini Brunch 11 AM & T-Dance 4 PM
BLAKE'S Open at 1pm - High Energy Music & Video w/ Bill Berdeaux & Daryl Cox
BURKHART'S Amorettes Drag Show
CLUB RUSH Hip Hop w DJ Truz, no cover
COCKPIT PBR Beer Bust
FELIX'S Bloody Marys & Mimosas
FRIENDS Smirnoff B Mary Bar 12:30pm
GILBERT'S All you care to eat brunch (cooked to order) 11-4pm and Karaoke 6-11:30pm
HIDEAWAY Bloody Mary Bar 12:30pm
HOBNOB Brunch - $15.00 - Bottomless Mimosas 11 AM-3PM plus 1/2 price wings 4-11PM
LAS MARGARITAS All You Can Eat til 3pm
MIXX Old School Sunday Dance 7pm
MODEL T Sunday Dinner w Ron 3:30pm
TRIPP'S Buffet 3pm; Karaoke pm
WOOF'S Bloody Mary bar, PBR special



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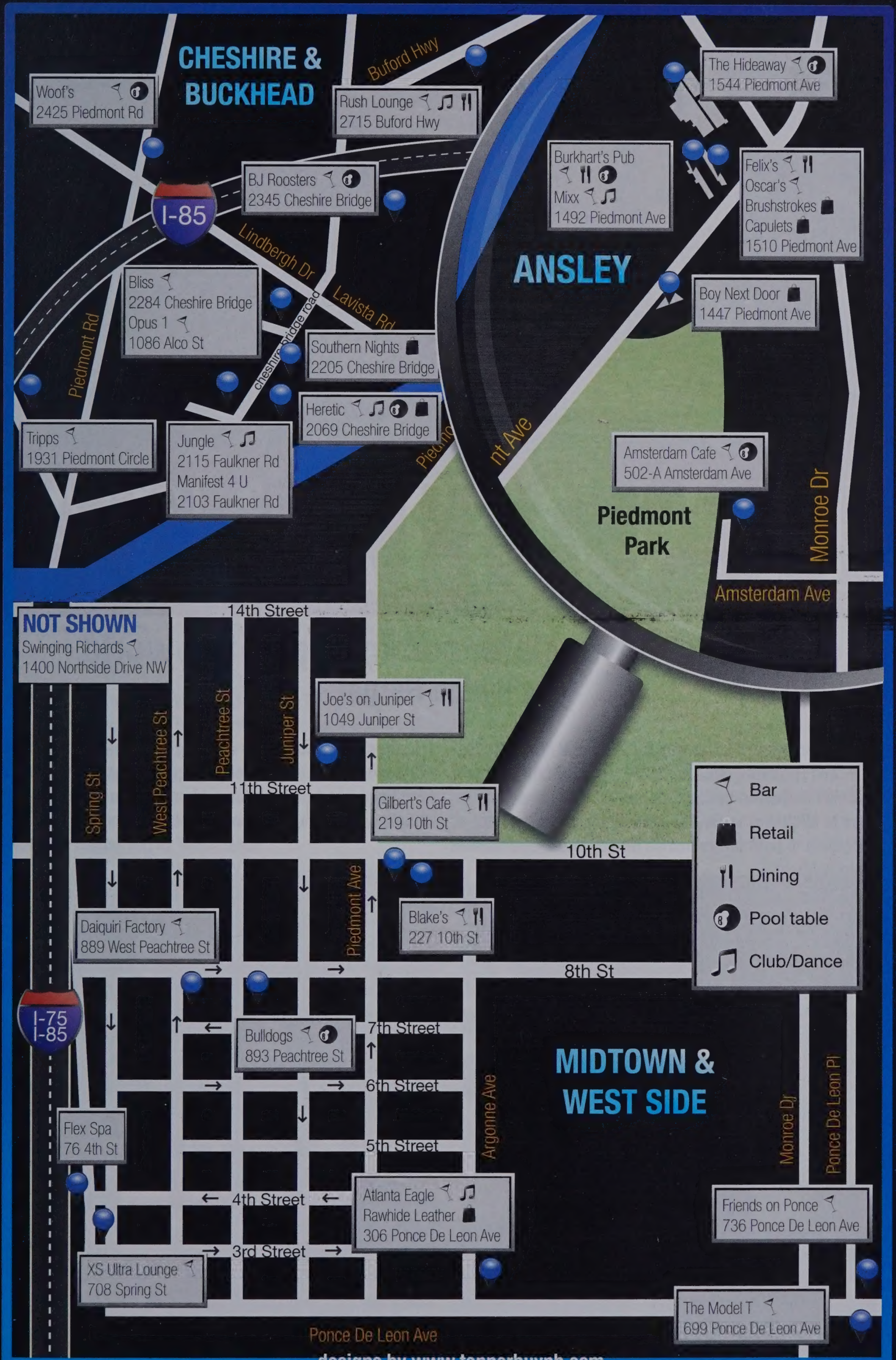
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Buford Hwy
Rush Lounge 🍸 🎵 🍴
2715 Buford Hwy
BJ Roosters 🍸 🎱
2345 Cheshire Bridge
I-85
Lindbergh Dr
Bliss 🍸
2284 Cheshire Bridge
Opus 1 🍸
1086 Alco St
Lavista Rd
cheshire bridge road
Southern Nights 🛍
2205 Cheshire Bridge
Piedmont Rd
Heretic 🍸 🎵 🎱 🛍
2069 Cheshire Bridge
Tripps 🍸
1931 Piedmont Circle
Jungle 🍸 🎵
2115 Faulkner Rd
Manifest 4 U
2103 Faulkner Rd
Piedmo
The Hideaway 🍸 🎱
1544 Piedmont Ave
Burkhart's Pub
🍸 🍴 🎱
Mixx 🍸 🎵
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10th St
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I-85
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TEN ATLANTA

Upscale, up-to-date, coming up in the world

by Emma Harger

Ten Atlanta, which sits on the corner of 10th Street and Piedmont Avenue across from 10th & Piedmont, is bringing an upscale restaurant and bar experience to Midtown. So far, the reception has been great, according to both owner James Nelson and media liaison Andrew Moon.

"The crowd's been really good. Everyone's been really responsive. Everyone loves the space, everyone says it's really good to have a nice upscale bar," Moon said.

Ten Atlanta had a well-received preview on Pride weekend and the bar has been open since just before New Year's Eve. The space has been extensively remodeled to feature new floors, two different bar areas, many big, airy windows and art pieces decorating the walls. (The pieces are for sale to interested buyers.) There are also some cushy black booths located in a side nook featuring a large display screen for a projector.

One of the bars is backed by mirrored walls with shelves of various liquors. At night, those shelves light up in different colors. So, even though Moon said that patrons don't tend to stray far from their favorite drinks when they come to Ten Atlanta, the light effects will make those drinks look good and appealing anyway.

The other bar is backed by a row of windows facing Piedmont Avenue and the outdoor patio space, which will soon be stocked with furniture to encourage outdoor dining and drinking as the weather gets warmer.

In addition to flat-screen TVs that will make Ten Atlanta a great place to catch a game, there is a unique, state-of-the-art sound system. Here's how it works.

Say that a DJ is spinning tracks in Stockholm, Sweden. The distance doesn't matter because his audio can be fed into Ten Atlanta live, no matter where he is. Moon said a smartphone app is in the works to let people hear whatever is being played inside the space, no matter where they are. Inside the restaurant, music sounds loud and crisp.

Though the bar aspect of Ten Atlanta is now open, the restaurant is still being developed. Nelson said he wasn't perfectly satisfied with the menu, so he is tweaking the final selections.

However, they are planning to really develop and promote Sunday brunch, which will include a variety of choices like a brie plate, steak or veggie Benedict, salads, burgers and even some decadent dessert options.

TEN
ATLANTA

Chef Jennifer DePanicis will be handling the kitchen duties. She attended Le Cordon Bleu in Tucker, has experience at Chops Lobster Bar and 103 West and has high ambitions for Ten Atlanta. One of her plans is to have vegetarian and gluten-free menu items featured as weekly specials. Her focus is on making comfort food, but with a sophisticated, upscale twist to keep people coming back again and again.

Dinner will be served from 5 to 10 p.m. nightly, but when the clock strikes 10, Ten Atlanta undergoes a change to become exclusively a bar space. Tables are moved back or taken away to give patrons more room to mingle, dance and drink. That transformation is the inspiration for the name, not the fact that the space is on 10th Street, Moon said.

Nelson wants to see how the community likes that restaurant-to-bar transition. The model has worked out for other businesses like Hamburger Mary's, which has locations in seven states, so the aim is to see if it will work in Atlanta as well. Should the community enjoy that change, Nelson can see Ten becoming a franchise and opening posts in other cities, although that's a more long-term goal. He's been in the Atlanta business community for 12 years and recently sold Gravity Fitness, also located in Midtown, to train his focus on Ten.

In the meantime, Moon wants people to bring their out-of-town guests to Ten Atlanta and show it off as the pinnacle of what the city has to offer. The fact that the bar is nonsmoking may also draw in guests. He said that he recalls some friends of his coming into town, going out and complaining that they smelled like an ashtray. That won't be happening at Ten Atlanta.

Nelson thinks it's time for a change anyway and it starts with ambitious individuals.

"I think it's time Atlanta had a nonsmoking bar," he said. "If the city or the state isn't going to change it, I guess we have to take it upon ourselves as individual business owners to make it happen." He said that even smokers have told him they enjoy not being in a smoking environment when they visit Ten Atlanta.

He also enjoys the location because finding a good spot is half the battle, especially for bars and restaurants.

Ten Atlanta is open from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. Monday to Friday and 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/10Atlanta or check out tenatlanta.com. On-site parking is available.

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BRANDY WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

Singer talks gay following, her zero tolerance for hate and why Frank Ocean's coming out is a 'gift'

By Chris Azzopardi

photos: Gomillion & Leupold

The '90s wouldn't have been the same without Brandy. The plucky then-teen, who was just 16 when she released her 1994 debut, dominated the charts with an iconic run of hits: "I Wanna Be Down," "Have You Ever" and her diva-off with Monica, "The Boy is Mine," a song so abiding that even *Glee* couldn't resist a cover.

But with a starring role in *Moesha*, debuting in 1996, the cross-pollinating performer quickly made it clear that she wanted to conquer not just music but acting, too. Later that decade, she'd star in *Cinderella* with Whitney Houston.

Brandy's relationship with the legendary icon, and the tragedy of her death last year, is evoked in the title of Brandy's latest album, *Two Eleven*, eerily representing the day Houston died and also Brandy's birthday.

Now 33 and recently engaged, Brandy opened up about those early years as a tomboy, how she can still channel heartbreak despite her happiness and why her gay audience is, as she says, "the best audience."

Can you believe it's been almost 20 years since you released your self-titled debut?

Oh my lord. It doesn't feel like it's been that long. I remember doing the photo shoot for the album like it's yesterday. I have so many memories of doing the first album and working with some of the producers that I worked with, and being in the middle of Times Square doing the video (for "Baby"). I remember certain things about that album like it was yesterday.

And how about those clothes? You were such a tomboy then.

I was! I was a tomboy. I still am sometimes. Boys are fun. (Laughs) It's fun, you know, wearing the boots and the baggy clothes – and the hat! Back then baggy clothes on a girl were so cute. If you didn't have baggy clothes, you were not hot.

Besides your fashion evolution, how else have you changed between that album and *Two Eleven*?

With the first album I was just a teenager trying to find my way. Now I'm a woman and I know very much who I am, but I have not lost that innocence and that shy part of who I am. I'm still very shy. You would be shocked to find out that I'm still stage fright, and although I will talk to anybody I meet – I'll have a full conversation with them – there are still some things that make me shy and bashful. I never wanna lose that. I never wanna lose the part of me that I had when I first started – you know, the humble side. You always wanna be appreciative, and I think I'm more that now because of my struggle and because of everything that I've been through. I'm appreciative for every little thing that comes my way – even this conversation, to bring awareness to me and my music is a blessing.

That's what keeps you grounded, right?

Yeah, I'm very grounded. Too grounded! (Laughs)

You say you're shy. What makes Brandy blush?

When people express how they feel about me and my music, and when people come up to me and cry when they meet me, I just feel so awkward. It just makes me so introverted. I don't know. When other people I admire say things and people just go on and on, it makes me feel really weird. And when people talk about me like I'm not there, that's weird. And when people put me on the spot – I don't like being put on the spot. It's just – I get really shy at times. And I'm stage fright. Oh my god. Right before I get on stage, I'm just like a – I was about to curse. (Laughs) I'm a nervous wreck.

You didn't seem so shy when you were singing a love song to a gay guy at San Jose Pride a few years ago. Yeah, that's right – I saw the YouTube video. Do you remember that?

(Laughs) I do, I do! It's funny, when I get into the zone onstage, it really becomes about my fans and making them happy and making them feel my heart, so the shyness goes away a little bit onstage. Like, once I'm there, once I start, I can sing to my gay fans – and my straight fans, and whoever wants to hear me sing – and I'll get through it.

When did you know you had a gay following?

This older guy came up to me – I was about 16 years old – and I think he was my makeup artist's friend or boyfriend. They didn't really admit it to me, but I kind of thought something was going on, and he comes up to me and he's like, "Brandy, girl! We gay boys love you! We looooove you." And I'm like, "Really? That's dope!"

One of my best friends was gay in high school and he just had so much love for me, but I didn't know I had a following of gay fans, and so he was like, "Oh, and you so pretty. If I was straight I would take you out." (Laughs)

He just made me feel so good, and then I noticed that a lot of gay people loved me and just made me feel so good. I have two gay best friends now, and I know they

will keep it all the way real with me. If I'm not looking my best or if I could have sounded better, I go to them because they're gonna tell me the truth.

Everywhere I go, (my gay fans) come out and support me and make me feel so loved and so appreciated. I did a whole run of gay clubs recently with the album. I would do my other stuff and then go and perform at like 2 in the morning. The energy just feels completely different. Like, they go in for me. And I'm telling you, I become this other person onstage because of that. Ah, I could go on and on about my gay fans.

So you did a club run for *Two Eleven*?

I did. I did a lot of stuff in New York. I did some stuff in – oh, where was I? I don't know where I've been, but it was specifically for my gay fans. They have been the best audience for me. It's just a different level of love. It feels like overseas love, because when you go overseas and you haven't been in a long time they go crazy – and that's how I feel.

You seem to know your gay fans pretty well. Which songs off the album do they love?

I know they love "Let Me Go" and "Do You Know What You Have." They've really been showing a lot of love for *Two Eleven* as a whole. But I go to this site that one of my gay fans started for me called BrandySource.net and get all of their opinions on what I should do next, if they didn't like my outfit … I need to know what they think! And they're gonna tell me the truth. I love that. And it's no shade, either! It's just all love.

My favorite songs of yours have always been the ballads. There's nothing like a Brandy ballad. How are you so good at sounding so sad?

(Laughs) Because I've been through a world of pain. I've had my heart broken a few times at a very young age – and then after that, somebody else broke my heart. So I've had my encounters with heartbreak, and I can remember what that felt like.

You and Frank Ocean haven't just worked together, as you did on this album, but you're also friends. What did you think of his coming-out letter on Tumblr?

I was so amazed by that. It was just so brave and it represented so much. His truth just set him free. I just think that when you can tell your truth – and are proud of your truth and use your truth for your art and to inspire someone else to connect with their truth – you are now a gift. He is a gift.

Do you think the urban community is more accepting and open when it comes to gay people than it was when you first started two decades ago?

It better be more accepting. This is just the way it is, and people just need to realize that love is unconditional. It knows no sex, no race, no culture. It just knows itself. That's it. And if people don't want to see that, then they're blind. I have no words for people who don't want to accept or see that.

Did you notice early in your career much homophobia within the urban community?

It's not just a conference, it's a powerful organizing moment that feeds me and pushes me to build a broad movement for justice.

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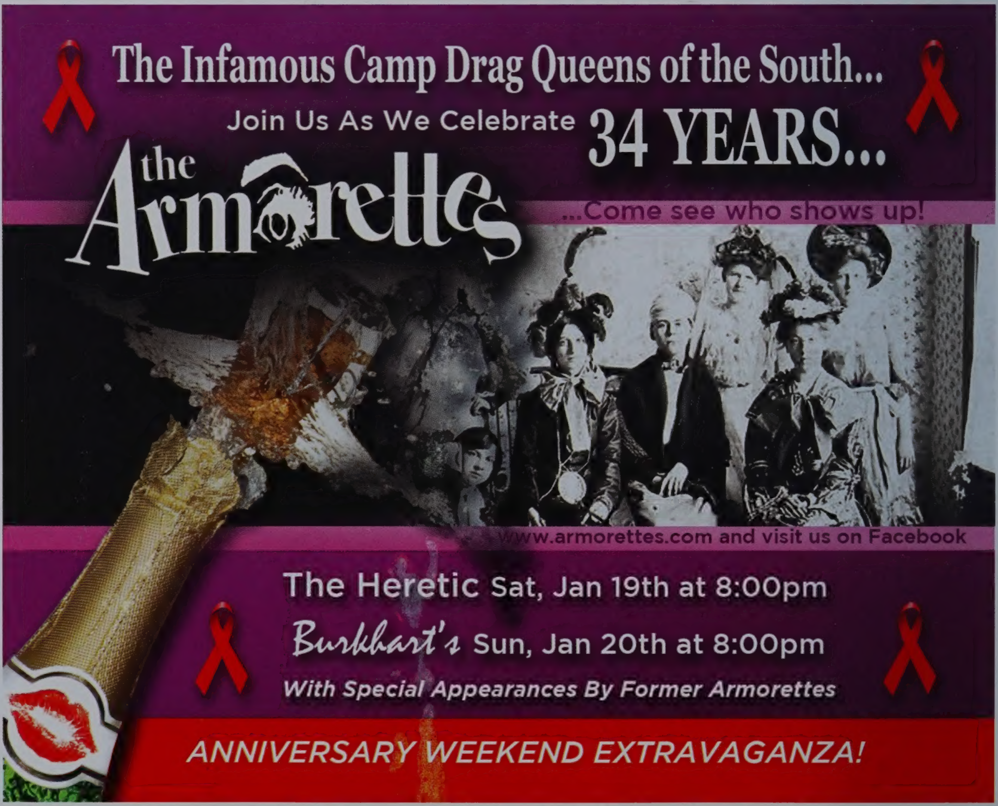
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I've always been a part of that world. I've always accepted people for who they are and what they want to do. I wasn't ever like, "Oh my god, that's amazing that this person's gay or that that person's this." I've never really looked at it like that. It's always been a part of my life. I went to Hollywood High School and I saw everything, and I was so amazed by my best friend. He knew how to do the splits! I didn't even know how to do the splits. I'm like, "Dang, you know how to do the splits?! I don't know how to do the splits. We're in the same damn class. You're a boy, I'm a girl – what's up with that?" We just connected and it's just always been a part of me. I never really looked at it.

Your daughter is 10 now. How are you teaching her acceptance and love for everyone?

I teach her that love is unconditional. It knows itself and that's it. My tennis coach is a lesbian and she's got a great partner and they have a child together, and we've all hung out. It's not something I keep from her. She needs to know that this is the way it is and that love is gonna do what it do. That's what I teach her. She loves my gay friends and she loves my tennis coach and her partner, too. To her, this is the way it's supposed to be.

For the new album, Frank wrote "Scared of Beautiful," a song you've said you relate to. Does that mean gay men understand women better than straight men?

I honestly think that gay men understand women differently than straight men understand women, because my gay friends are like my girls sometimes. They understand me more than my girls understand me. They understand me sometimes more than women understand me, so you know they're gonna understand me a little more than my man understands me. (Laughs)

My gay friends are like my girlfriends, and I connect to them sometimes more than my actual girlfriends because they just get it. They get it on the man side and they get it on the girl side, too. And sometimes straight men just get it on the man side and they think you're trippin'. They think you mad at them! Your gay friends are like, "Girl, I feel you."

Beyoncé told me the same thing when I interviewed her: that when she refers to the girls running the world, she also means the gays.

Yes, B! B, I agree, girl. You guys give us life.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com.

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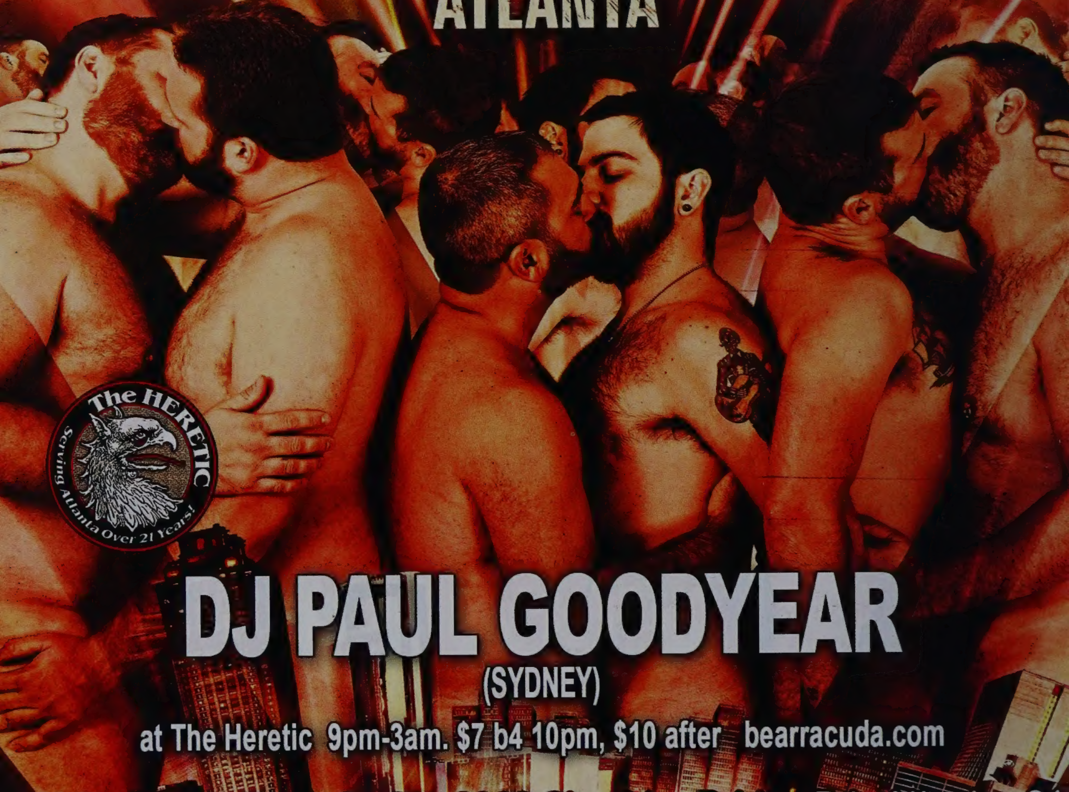

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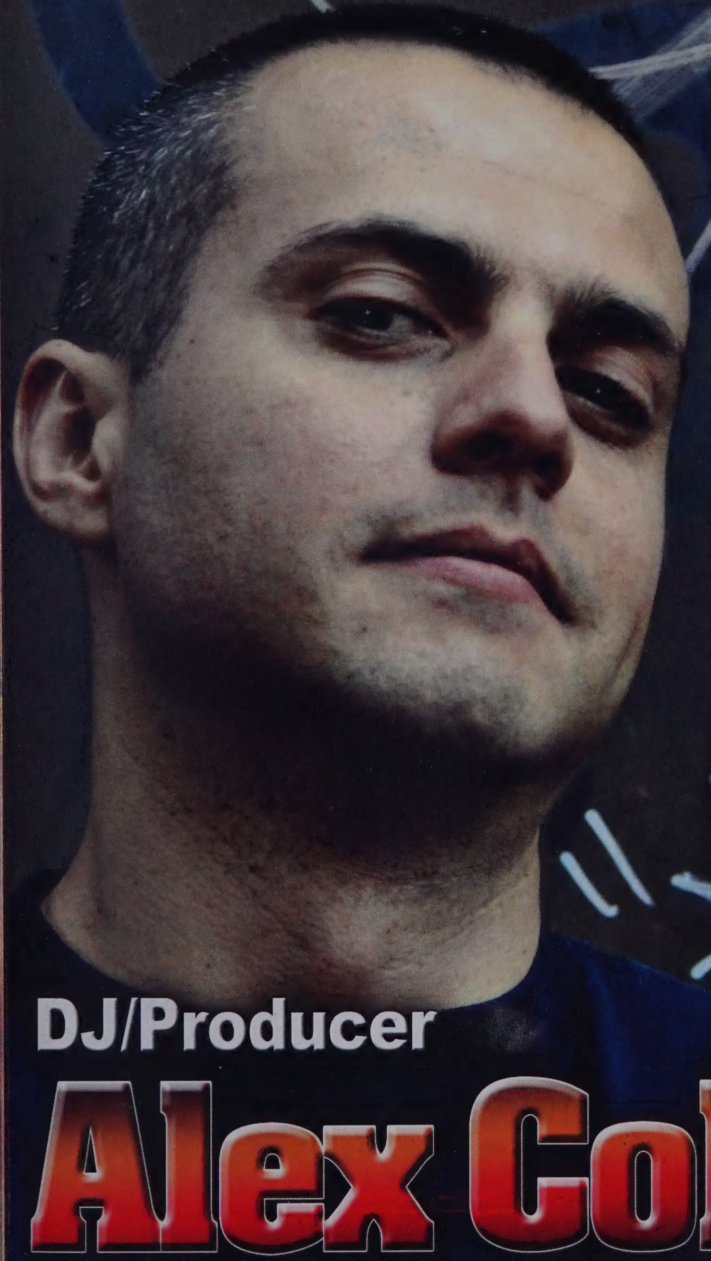

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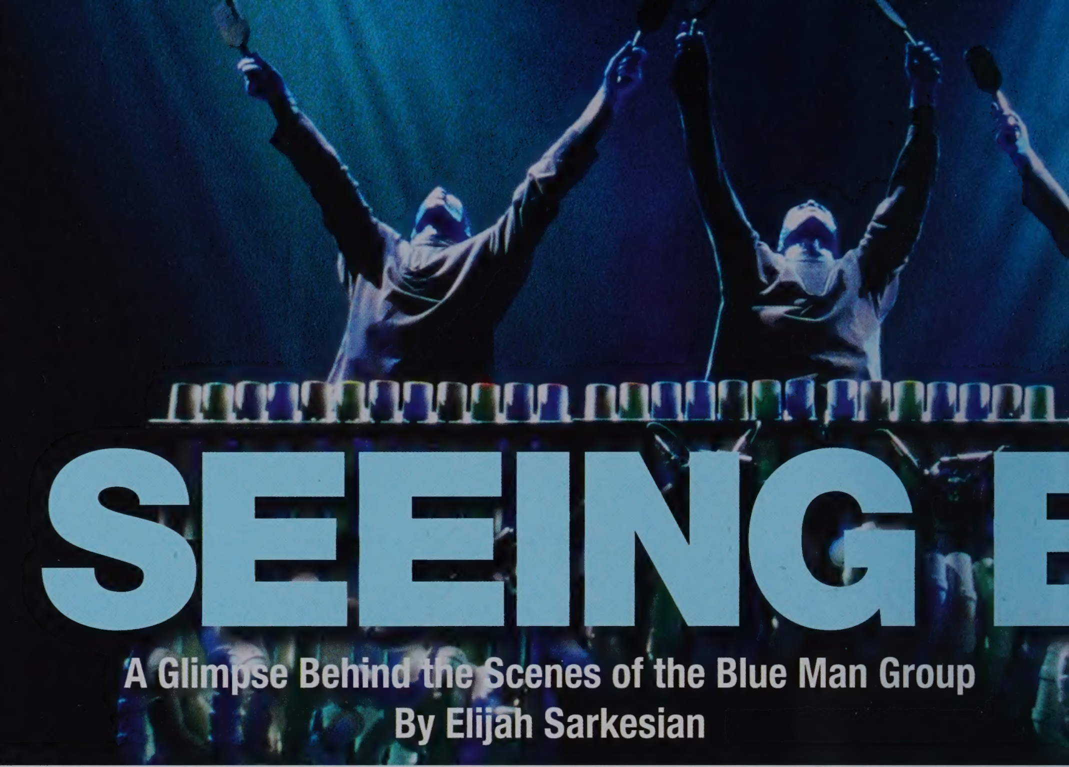


SEEING

A Glimpse Behind the Scenes of the Blue Man Group

By Elijah Sarkesian

Since the group's inception in 1987, the Blue Man Group has dazzled audiences around the world with its mix of comedy, music and multimedia. Made up of a rotating group of three men, the Blue Man Group is instantly recognizable to audiences around the world by the members' signature bald, blue heads.

Ahead of their one-week stint at the Fox Theatre, member James Marlowe talked with *David Atlanta* about what to expect from a Blue Man Group performance, as well as how he became involved with the troupe.

For anyone who's not seen a Blue Man Group show before, how would you describe the experience?

Well, it's very much that—an experience. It's different from a lot of the other shows you'll see. It has a very strong character, but not necessarily a storyline. There's a plot, but not a full-on narrative to it. We try to think of it as an experience, really.

How did you personally get involved with Blue Man Group?

Well, I went through an open call audition in London, and I didn't really know much about the group at that point. But we had six rounds of auditions in London, and it really intrigued me, the whole process [of the group]. At the end of that, I was offered the chance to go for a two-month training/audition in New York. Having passed that, I became a Blue Man.

You've performed with both the localized groups and the touring group. What are the differences between the centralized and touring groups?

The difference for this tour…first of all, the difference from this tour to the previous tours is that they're more like the sit-down shows than the previous tours that have been around. Those tours are much more music-based, and this one is much more about bringing what is going on in the cities, the character-based performances, out on the road. Having said that, it's not the same as our sit-down shows. It's kind of a bigger show out here. We have great new technology, which creates rich and stunning pieces. But yeah, we're trying to bring that character-based show out on the road, and add a bit more surprise and spice to it.

Can you tell me a little about the audience interaction that normally comes with a Blue Man Group show?

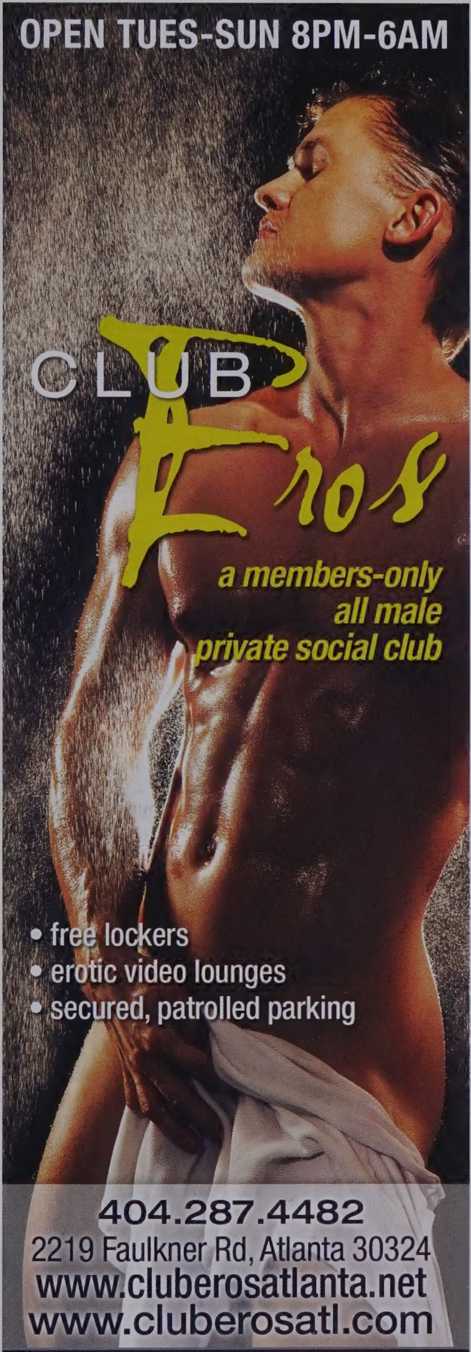
Yeah, sure. One of the things that's different about the shows is that there's no fourth wall. From the very opening, the Blue Men are aware of the audience. That plays a huge part in what happens, with the Blue Men really trying to establish a connection with the audience.

You'll often be sitting there [in the audience] and a Blue Man will be looking straight at you to kind of see if you're thinking about something, or see if what he's doing is creating a connection, which is what the show's all about—creating a connection with the audience. So that's pretty much how it is; the audience is pretty much another character in the show.

What is it like performing with the Blue Man Group?

It's a lot of fun. It's a really interesting character, and playing the character is very infectious. There are guys who have done this job for many years, because it's so infectious to perform. We have this connection with the audience, which the characters strive for, but also you have this amazing connection with the other guys. Because the Blue Men can't speak, you *always* have to communicate with your eyes, and you start to know so much about the other guys; by the way they're looking at you, you can tell exactly what they're saying. You're having full-blown conversations up there, but it's not with words. That's one of the most entertaining things about it. It's also a very optic show. We're using space in different ways. The Blue Men come at it not knowing "the rules." It's fun—there's a connection, an openness, really.

Blue Man Group appears in Atlanta Jan. 15-20 at the Fox Theatre. Tickets can be purchased online or by calling 855-ATL-TIXX.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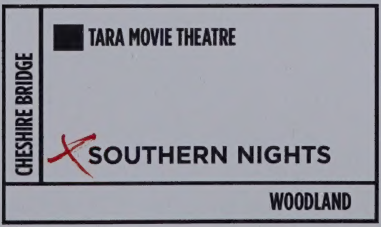
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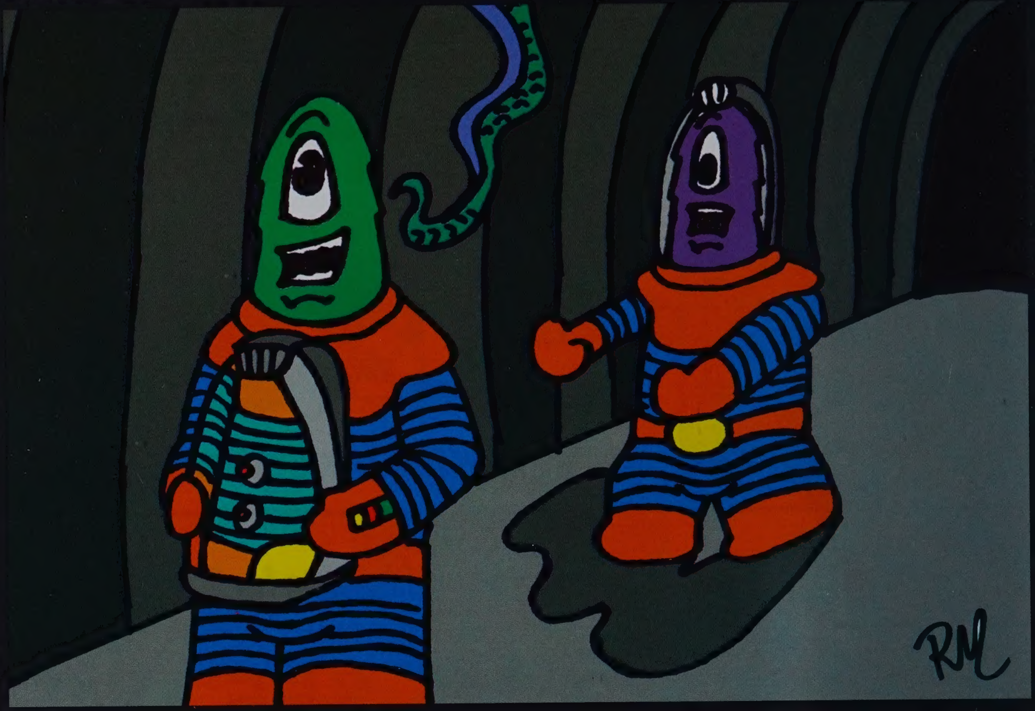
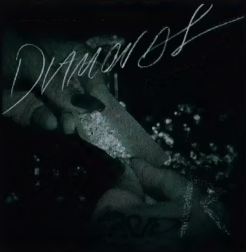


TOP 10

1. Let Us Move On – Dido feat. Kendrick Lamar
2. Losing You - Solange
3. Locked Out of Heaven – Bruno Mars
4. We Come Running (RAC Mix) - Youngblood Hawke
5. Diamonds – Rihanna
6. Andre – JoJo
7. Who Did That to You - John Jegend
8. While We're in Love - Viceroy Feat. Ghost Beach
9. Girl on Fire – Alicia Keys
10. Sweet Nothing - Calvin Harris feat. Florence Welch

young blood hawke



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The Report

by Brent Star

KEEP GOING...

(YOU JUST NEVER KNOW HOW CLOSE YOU ARE!)

Sometimes it feels easier to throw in the damn towel and say "F this." Sometimes it feels darn right to light up a joint and just forget about the pain and the struggles you face sometimes in life. Hell, sometimes it may even feel like it's just too damn impossible for your dreams to come true. But...*never* feel like you should give up!

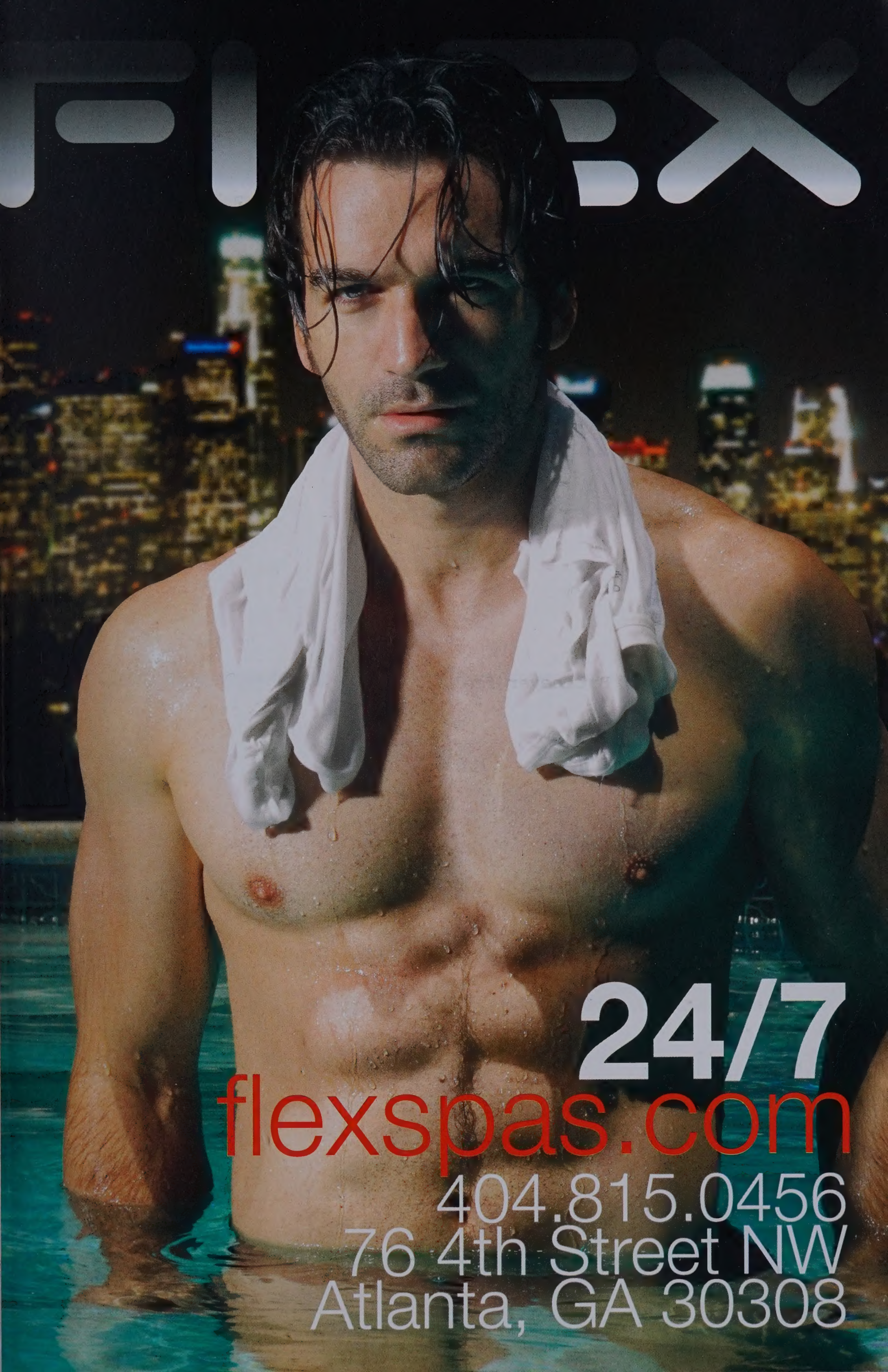
Sure, take a break right quick, grab a drank if you need to, eat a Mr. Goodbar or whatever just as long as you *keep going*! Hell yeah, it gets tough sometimes and you feel like throwing your GPS in the trash for constantly saying "rerouting" whenever you take a wrong turn in life. Just remember what Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

Speaking of MLK, one of his biggest dreams is still in progress and that's the one where he said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character". That quote should be *plastered* on walls and windows everywhere because a lot of people still have a habit of judging other people by the color of their skin, or who they sleep with, instead of the fact that person just saved your life in the hospital, that person just wanted to be a good honest friend to you, that person told you where the best whorehouses in town are...wait...you know what I mean!

There are only two types of people out there, Good and Bad. Figure that part out *first* about someone, *then* notice their color, size, sexuality or how bad their hair may be.

One more thing: during this MLK holiday, take out five minutes and think to yourself—"Am I focused enough on making sure *my* dreams come true?" Or have you even started? It can all come true, but first, you must take that first step...and no matter what, *keep going*!

Thank you so much for reading The Brent Star Report for the last 3 years. It warms my heart every damn time I run into one of you readers and you say "I read your column all the time!" Stay tuned...for my new column, Untucked, which finds me focusing more on the Atlanta drag scene. The girls have been in too many movies and TV shows lately for me to sleep on some juicy stories waiting to be told!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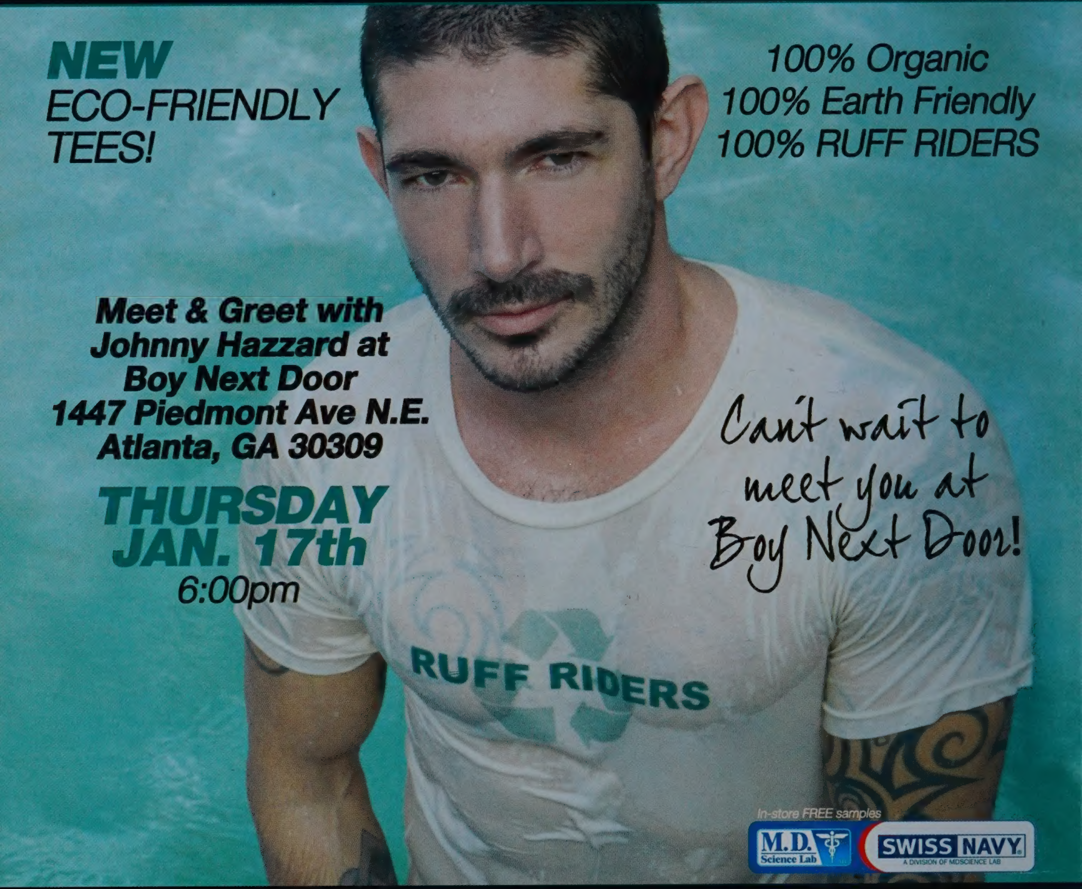

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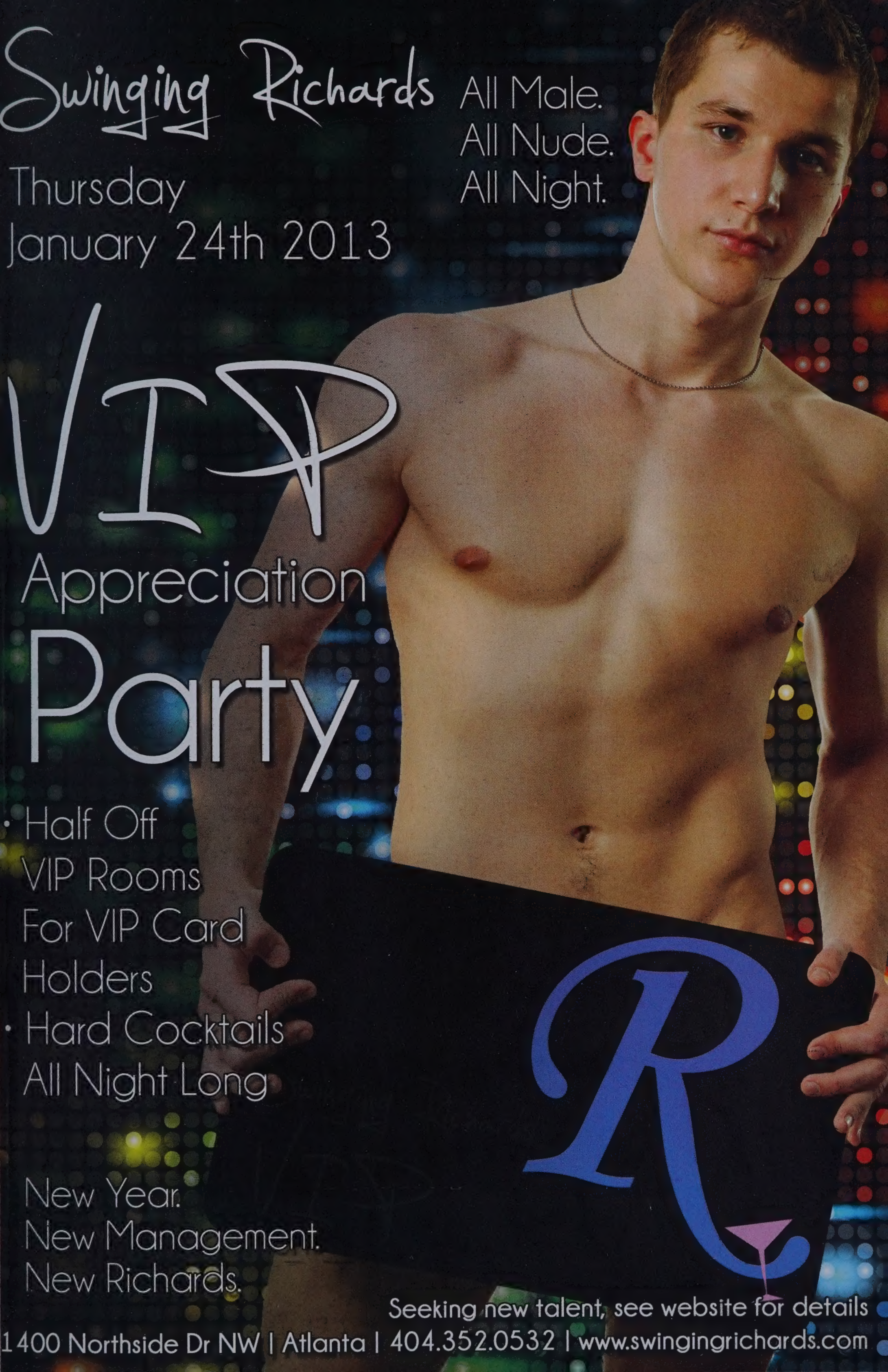

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ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Normally you're a forward thinker, but now you're feeling nostalgic with thoughts pulling you into hazy memories of old friends and family members. You'd rather be making new friends than watching reruns of your old story, but don't fight it. Let the past and the future blend into the magic of the present.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): If you have trouble remembering dates, be sure to make a special note about the 26th. It could be one of the luckiest days of the year for you. For the rest of the month, a cautious approach takes more time at first but reduces errors that will make you more efficient in the long run.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): As your ruling planet Mercury backtracks this month, cleaning up unfinished business takes time, but will be the most efficient way to move your life forward. Any miscommunication can be straightened out on or after the 20th and 21st. This is a good month to recommit to a health regimen.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): This month, you find yourself concerned with your own self-worth and what you really have to offer. Do you believe your life is worthwhile? Are you clear about your core values? With the Sun transiting your sign, don't be afraid to take bold action to prove yourself.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): It's time for you to rethink your accomplishments and what you still dream of. Let go of anything that no longer supports you. If possible, go on a nice little retreat for the remainder of the month. When the Sun enters your sign on the 22nd, you're ready to take action.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Get to the heart of matters and learn compassion this month. You want everyone to hear how forgiving you are, but remain open to that part of you that doesn't want anyone to know at all. Forgiveness is a private issue between the parties involved.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Do some critical healing at home or with a family member this month. If things need to be said in a close personal relationship, now is the time to reveal how you really feel. In fact, you may be able to get away with saying things that would usually be too aggressive.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): If everything goes well for you this month, you may feel a powerful energy burst. But if you are in emotional turmoil now, this could be a low point instead. If so, use this time to retreat and recharge. Either way, you have an opportunity to make positive changes, but be creative in your approach.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Opportunities for an intense, passionate relationship come up this month. Be careful; they may end up more possessive or controlling than you like. Truth and integrity in a lover are needed for you to feel safe. Concerning finances, self-discipline is a major investment in your future.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Relationships, personal and professional, are your focus. Get feelings out in the open, and your commitment to excellence will enhance your dependability. The stars are on your side, but it's up to you to take it to the next level.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Things may seem confusing, especially when it comes to your relationships. It's important to remain strong, even if it's difficult to tell when you are on the same page with others. If you find yourself spending a great deal of time alone, welcome it. You need the time to clear your head.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Your love life might take an unexpected turn. It's good to rethink the direction of your romantic life. If you feel the need to make adjustments, the last weekend of the month is a good time to do it. Regressing emotionally can feel foolish, but it may be the key to discovering an old wound that can be healed.

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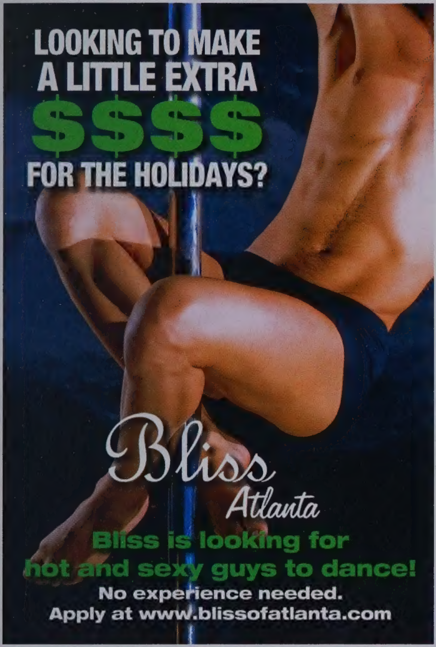

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When life gives you lemonade, add vodka.

My penis is a weapon of ass destruction.

Texting your bitches to the back of David Atlanta doesn't make you more witty or cute. It makes you more of a douchebag.

Got such a high at Pride, but now I feel totally alone even around other gay men. It sucks being gay in this city.

It's been 10 days since I've contacted Grindr for tech support, and still no response nor is the problem fixed. Absolutely pathetic. I'm sticking to Scruff.

Is there such a thing as a manly twink?

I was talking to a girl who got her Doctorates from the University of Phoenix. She wanted to tell me more...but the girl at the next window had my #1 value meal ready and was shaking it violently.

My way of remembering the difference between "bitchy" and "sassy" is that I'm not the cat from Homeward Bound.

*This page reflects the bitchiness of the community not *David Atlanta* or its publisher (although we're bitchy too!)

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Denis the Menace

Denis O'Hare talks *True Blood* & *American Horror Story*

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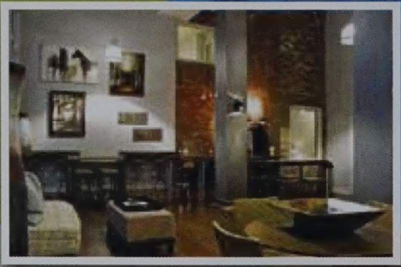

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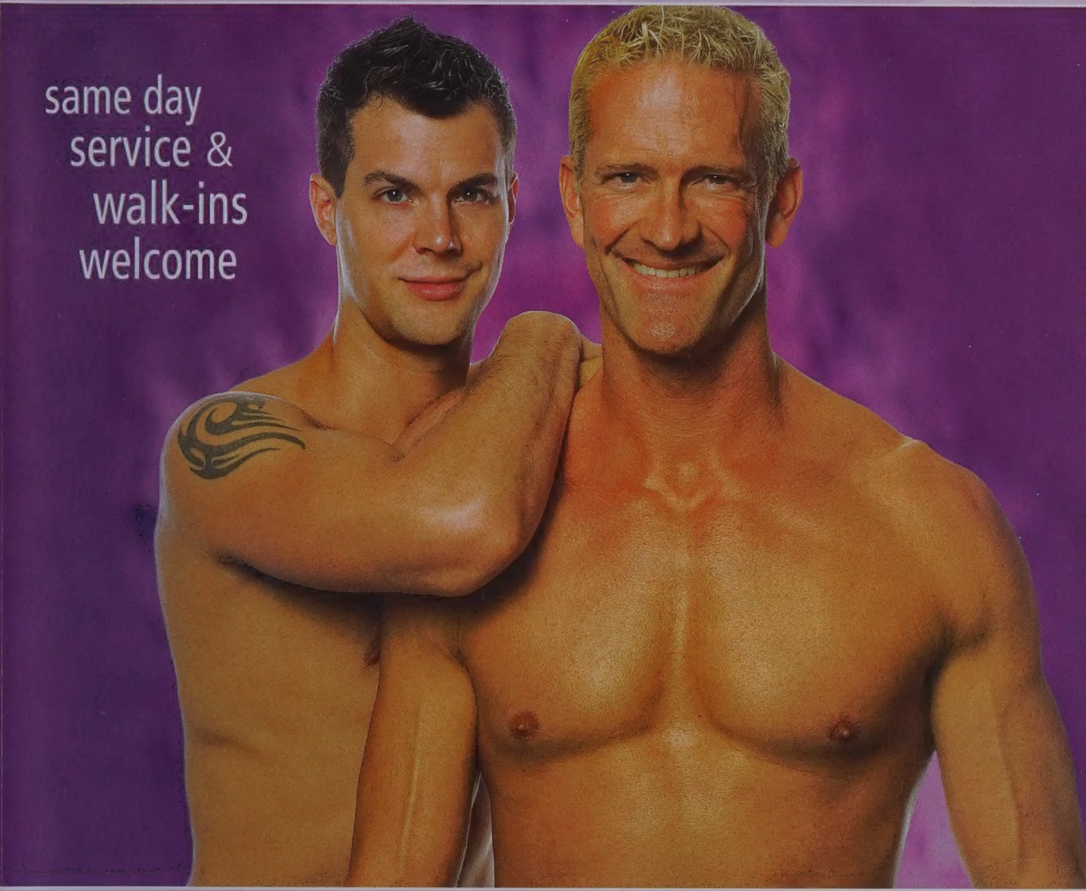

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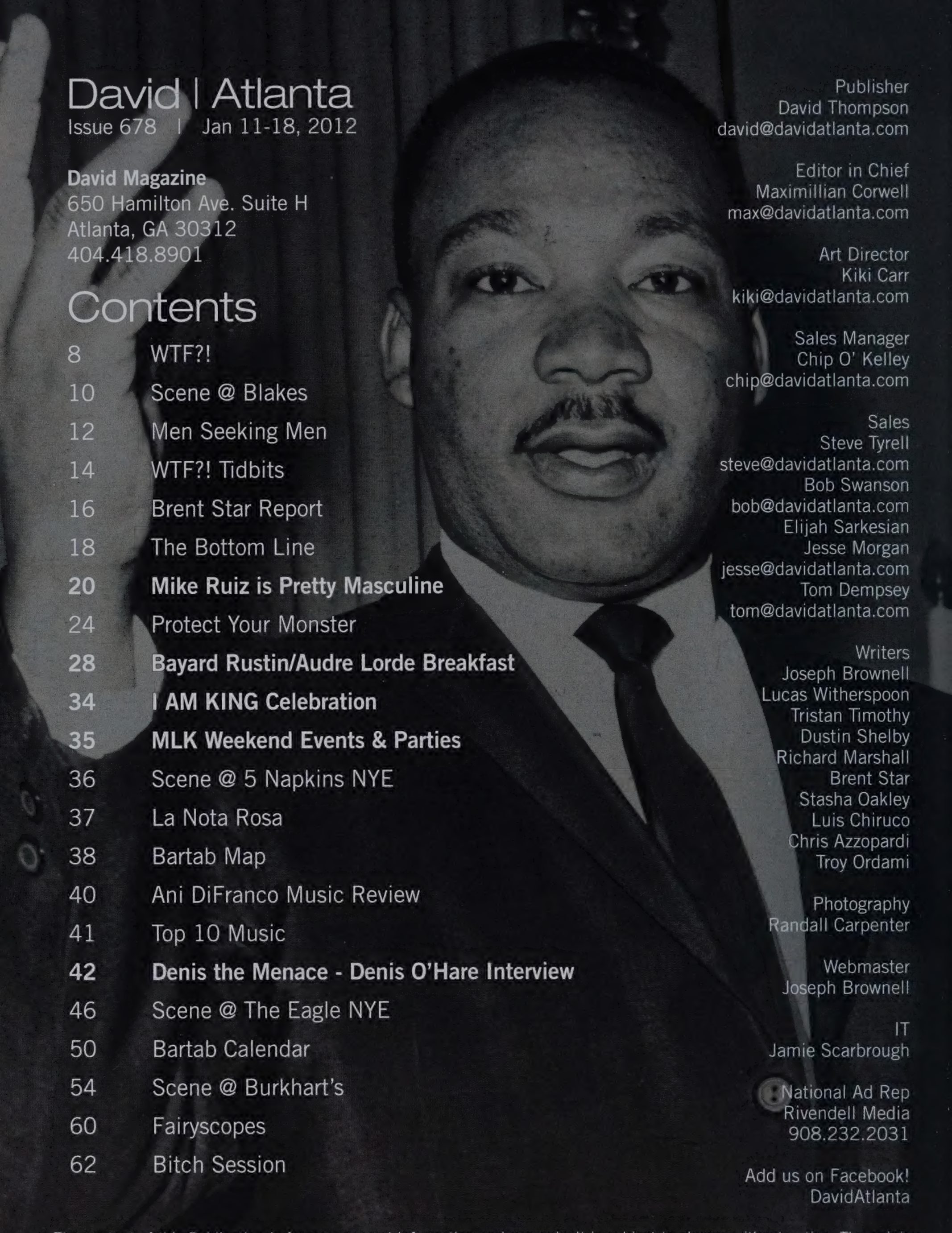

David | Atlanta

Issue 678 | Jan 11-18, 2012

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5 People to Avoid Inviting to Parties

by Lucas Witherspoon

1. The Party Virgin

Is there anything worse than a person who doesn't know how to hold their alcohol? It's one thing to take your party virgin friend out to a bar or club where the owners kind of expect they'll have to deal with people occasionally getting messy and vomiting on the floor, but when it's at someone's house or a venue they've paid to rent, it's entirely different. You've either got to learn self-control so that you don't get to a point where you'll act a fool, or how to manage your booze.

2. "That Girl/Guy"

"That girl/guy" refers to that person that always makes a complete ass of themselves in public once they've had a few too many. They're generally seen sobbing uncontrollably while hugging everyone in sight, hanging onto them and proclaiming, "I love you soooooo much." Okay, girl, we get it. Now let's get you home.

3. The Bait & Switch-er

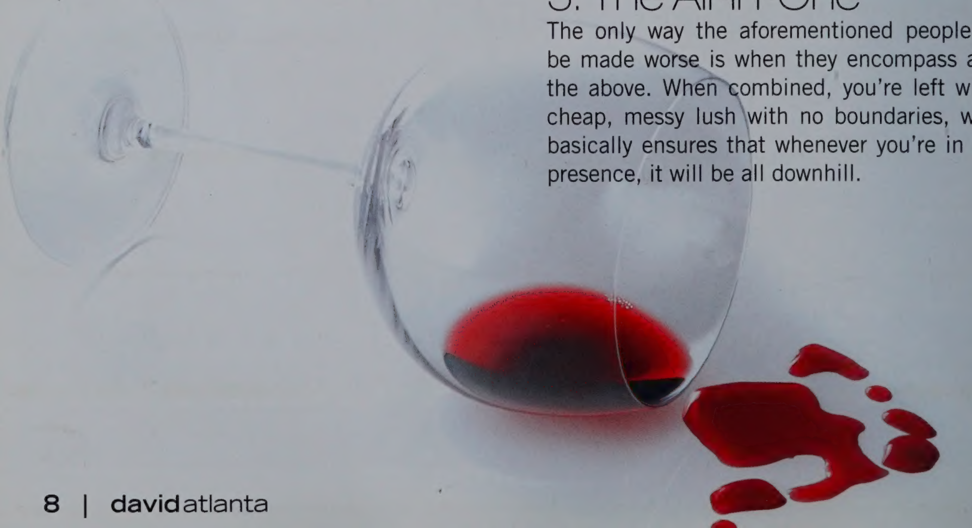
I've only ever encountered these people at BYOB parties, but they're the people who, once they've got the bait (an invite), don't hesitate to initiate the switch, meaning they'll bring a cheap bottle of booze so as to technically be contributing, but bypass their own alcohol for the higher-shelf stuff. In business, baiting and switching is illegal. No one's going to arrest you for mooching off of others' booze, but it's in bad taste, and will definitely ensure your blacklisted from future parties.

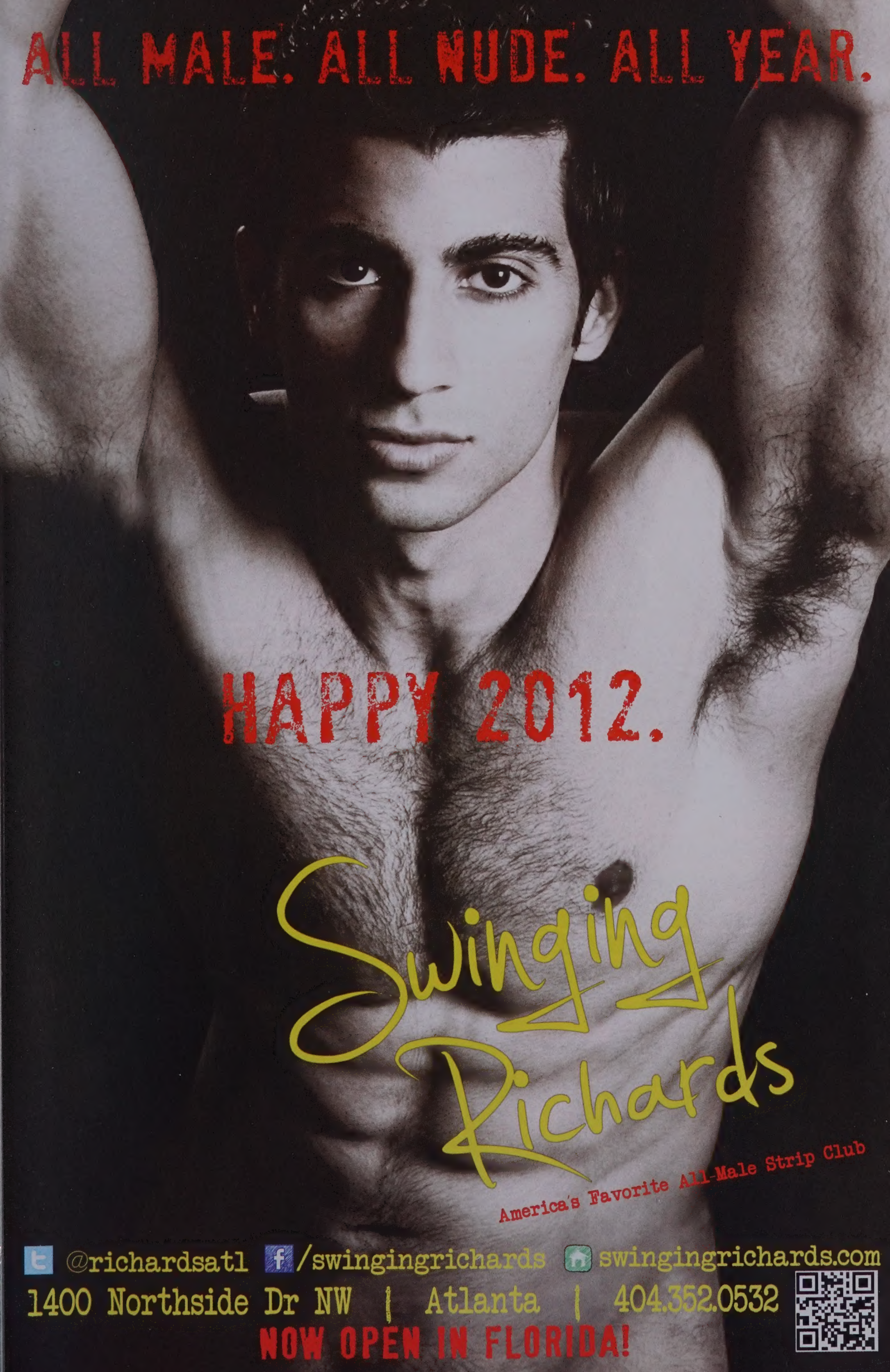
4. The Creeper

By now, we all are familiar with the mating habits of the creeper... and by "mating habits," I mean their inability to have a conversation without making it extremely socially awkward. Whether it's cheesy pick-up lines or their seeming lack of boundaries, the creeper will manage to do just that: creep you the fuck out. Somehow, though, no matter how many times they've been shot down, they persevere, which would be admirable if they weren't so skeevy.

5. The All-in-One

The only way the aforementioned people can be made worse is when they encompass all of the above. When combined, you're left with a cheap, messy lush with no boundaries, which basically ensures that whenever you're in their presence, it will be all downhill.

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Dating Resolutions

by Tristan Timothy

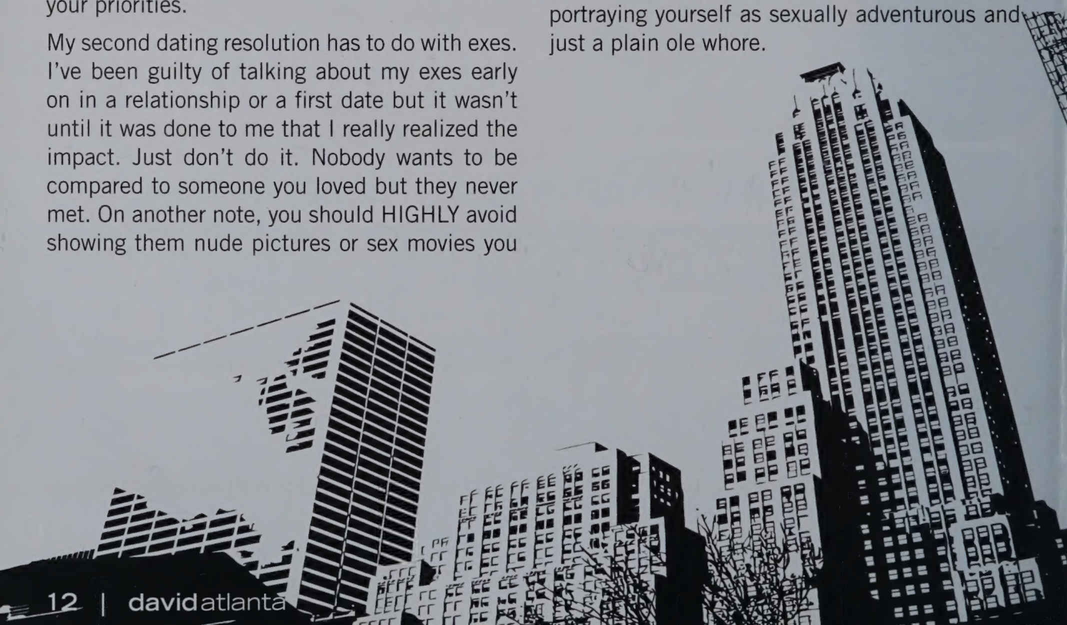
Gay Dating in the City

Everyone is talking about resolutions. By now it's mostly the ones they made and weren't able to keep. While quitting smoking, or working out more are great resolutions, I've decided to compile a few resolutions you should make in your dating life.

Firstly if you find yourself single, maybe it's time to readjust your preferences. I have a friend who rarely dates and the reason behind this is mainly because he's just too picky. He's a good looking kid but not a ten and he has a serious aversion to anyone who might have 5 extra pounds on them. I would almost find this understandable if he spent all his free time in the gym, but he doesn't. Sometimes it's just good to readjust your priorities.

My second dating resolution has to do with exes. I've been guilty of talking about my exes early on in a relationship or a first date but it wasn't until it was done to me that I really realized the impact. Just don't do it. Nobody wants to be compared to someone you loved but they never met. On another note, you should HIGHLY avoid showing them nude pictures or sex movies you guys made together. For me it's not even about measuring up to your ex, but how do I know how safe my nude pics are with you if you're showing me some other guys?

Finally, my last dating resolution fit's into the previous one. Maybe you don't have an ex to talk about and are searching for an exciting topic and decide to tell sex stories. Mistake. While this usually starts out fun, "I had sex in the milk fridge at Kroger..." it can lead into some dicey territory. I've been on dates where I tell a "crazy sex story" that they recognized from his roommate. Needless to say we didn't make it to a second date. There is a thin line between portraying yourself as sexually adventurous and just a plain ole whore.



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RAQUELL LORD's TALENT SHOW
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DOORS @ 9PM. 18 & UP

THURS., JAN. 12TH
MLK WEEKEND KICK-OFF
TURNT UP THURS.
NO COVER! DOORS @ 11:30PM. 18 & UP

FRI., JAN. 13TH
WELCOME TO THE "ATL" PARTY
NO COVER! DOORS @ 6PM. 21 & UP

SAT., JAN. 14TH
MAN 2 MAN MLK BASH @ XS
& TRAXX ATLANTA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY
@ FREIGHT DEPOT
@ UNDERGROUND ATLANTA

MON., JAN. 16TH
THE MARTIN LUTHER KING
MARCH & RALLY
1:30PM. @ PEACHTREE ST. AND BAKER ST

Ron Paul
REVOLUTION

Kelly Clarkson has publicly endorsed presidential candidate Ron Paul, seemingly without actually bothering to research him. She tweeted: "I liked him a lot during the last Republican nomination and no one gave him a chance. If he wins the nomination for the Republican party in 2012 he's got my vote. Too bad he probably won't." Immediately, she received tweets pointing out that Ron Paul has held some questionable positions concerning African-Americans and gays, to which Kelly responded, "I have never seen or heard Ron Paul say anything against gay people? [...] I love all people and could care less if you love a man or a woman. I have never heard that Ron Paul is a racist or a homophobe? [...] I have never heard that he's a racist? That's ignorant." I think it's a bit more ignorant to blindly support a presidential candidate when you barely know anything about them, but that's just me.

In what came as a surprise to no one, Katy Perry and her husband of 14 months, Russell Brand, have decided to divorce. Russell was allegedly asked to file by Katy "since she was raised to believe divorce is wrong." That's right, folks, Jesus totally approves of shooting icing from your tits, but divorce? Definite no-no.

My all-time favorite cougar, Ellen Barkin, took to Twitter to allege that an NYPD officer roughed her up. After coming to the defense of an Occupy Wall Street protestor who was, according to Ellen, unfairly arrested, she accused a cop of shoving her onto the sidewalk, to which she riposted, "Get your motherfucking hands off me!" Her current boyfriend, director Sam Levinson, caught the incident on film and, to me, it looked like the cop did kind of push her, but I was more amazed that when he so much as looked at her, he didn't turn to stone. Ellen's a straight-up bitch that wouldn't bat an eye at slashing someone with $100 bills (she got $40 million in her divorce from her second husband).

Lady Gaga was snapped cuddling up to Vampire Diaries hottie, Taylor Kinnie, which just goes to show that no matter how many pounds of rubbish she wears or how many cryptically nonsensical statements she makes that are misinterpreted as philosophical, she still has a vagina, and that vagina needs to be fucked by a hot piece.

by Lucas Witherspoon

photo by Helga Esteb / Shutterstock.com

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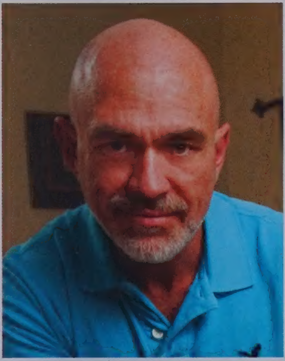
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The Brent Star Report

Last Gay Men Standing

We can handle not eating at Chick-Fil-A, we can "dislike" Rick Perry's ridiculous campaign video on YouTube, we can throw Michele Bachmann over a bridge, but how can we in this new year continue to ignore the growing tumbleweed that's sweeping across the ATL's 'gay scene'? I'm sorry, but Midtown is losing business and slowly losing its identity! Am I the only one noticing that the only time when we really see all of us is during the Pride parades? But the minute it's over, we run back inside our shells.

If we don't get over our differences and support each other, we'll be doomed to loose even more businesses this year. We can't let those homophobic whores win by watching us shrink into a forgettable state of oblivion!

Another scary thing I've noticed is how so many of us are marching back into the closet. Gay used to mean HAPPY, now it seems to be something to be "ashamed of". What happened to the brave warriors of our community who had NO PROBLEM with expressing themselves? Where ARE those expressive leather men or androgynous cross dressers who did it for themselves and each other, and not just for a show... where are you?

What I'm saying is too many of us have become too afraid to express ourselves to the point of dangerously blending in with the rest of the cookie cutters. Snap out of that spell and be you! Yeah, I know every gay guy isn't meant to sashay, so I'm talking to those brave and bold gay MEN who genuinely WANT to snap, walk, dress, speak, shop, live and breath the way you truly are and NOT how the world tell you how you're SUPPOSED to be.

This is a brand new year, we're back at square zero. It's up to us to make the scene HAPPEN again...it's up to YOU. Start your engines...and don't fuck it up!

UNTIL next week, DON'T read the girls, instead read The Brent Star Report!

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"Change"

by Joseph Brownell

I love the idea of a New Year. It's like someone took the Etch-a-Sketch from your hands, gave it a huge shake, wiping the screen clear, and then handed it back to you. There's something promising about the ability to say, "well this year is going to be better." We've all pondered resolutions (and maybe even broken a few already); I can't help but contemplate the age old question- can people truly change?

There are many layers to this discussion. First, I think we are constantly being changed, even in tiny ways, by our everyday experiences but it's not those micro changes I'm referring to. Can a racist become tolerant? Can someone who's always believed homosexuality is a sinful choice become an advocate for gay marriage? Call me an optimist but I believe this is possible because if people don't change then the concepts of forgiveness and redemption are absolute rubbish.

Whether it's a great novel, television show or movie, audiences always root for the change in the protagonist. Maybe it's because we truly want the character to experience the epiphany or maybe it's because we long for something that seems so distant in ourselves. I think that change- any change- big or small, is possible but it's often those closest in our lives that prevent the full transformation.

After spending part of the holidays with my mother, I saw the decade-old images I've clung so tightly to as reasons to why I don't visit more start to crumble. Sure there were times in the past that I wish she hadn't acted a certain way, but those perceptions no longer matched the woman I was spending time with. She had in fact changed but my refusal to see it because I was so accustomed to the person I still believed her to be prevented me from fully experiencing it. My mother's changed; it's time for me to.

Change doesn't happen overnight. Look around you and see who's truly trying to change and how you might be impeding that change; sometimes a little empathy and a little faith goes a long way.

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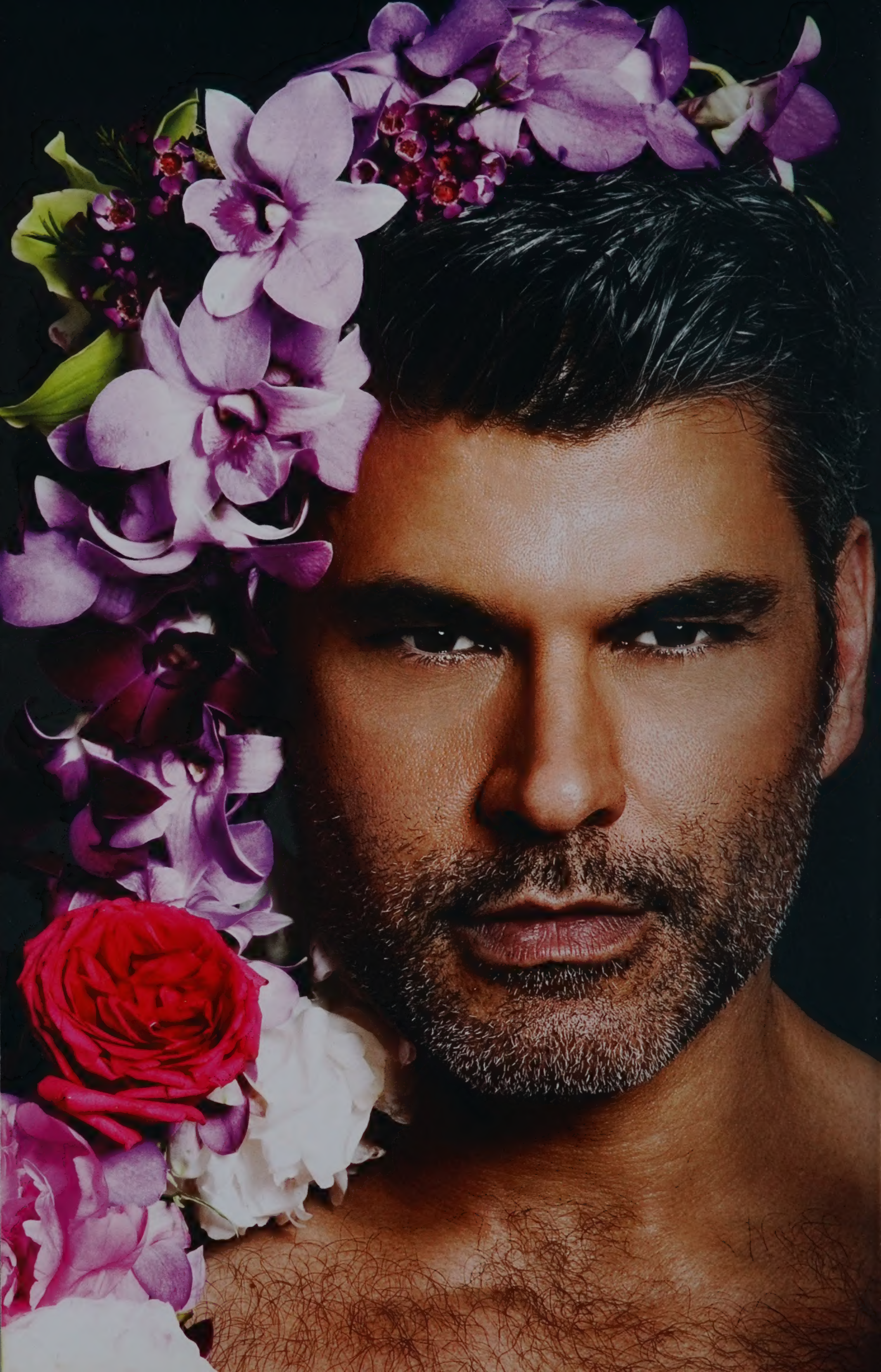


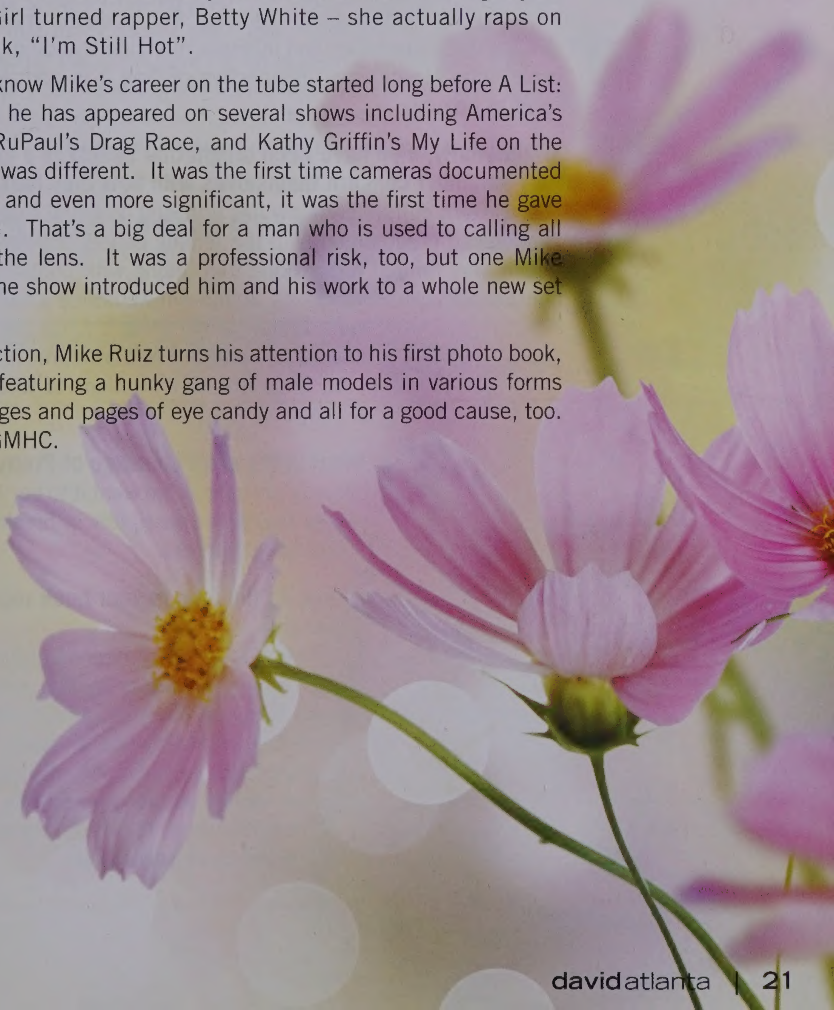
Mike Ruiz Is Pretty Masculine

By Troy Ordami

Few do cool as hot as high-octane celebrity-fashion photographer and star of A List: New York, Mike Ruiz. With a unique approach to the exploration of visceral brilliance, his finely crafted celebrity images have appeared in Vanity Fair, Italian Elle, and Spanish Vogue. He has shot some of the hottest in Hollywood from Kim Kardashian to Adam Lambert and the girls of Jersey Shore. However, even he'll say that none shined as brightly as beloved Golden Girl turned rapper, Betty White – she actually raps on the new club track, "I'm Still Hot".

Savvy reality fans know Mike's career on the tube started long before A List: New York. In fact, he has appeared on several shows including America's Next Top Model, RuPaul's Drag Race, and Kathy Griffin's My Life on the D-List. But A List was different. It was the first time cameras documented Mike's every move and even more significant, it was the first time he gave up creative control. That's a big deal for a man who is used to calling all the shots behind the lens. It was a professional risk, too, but one Mike doesn't regret as the show introduced him and his work to a whole new set of adoring fans.

In his latest production, Mike Ruiz turns his attention to his first photo book, Pretty Masculine, featuring a hunky gang of male models in various forms of undress. It's pages and pages of eye candy and all for a good cause, too. Proceeds benefit GMHC.



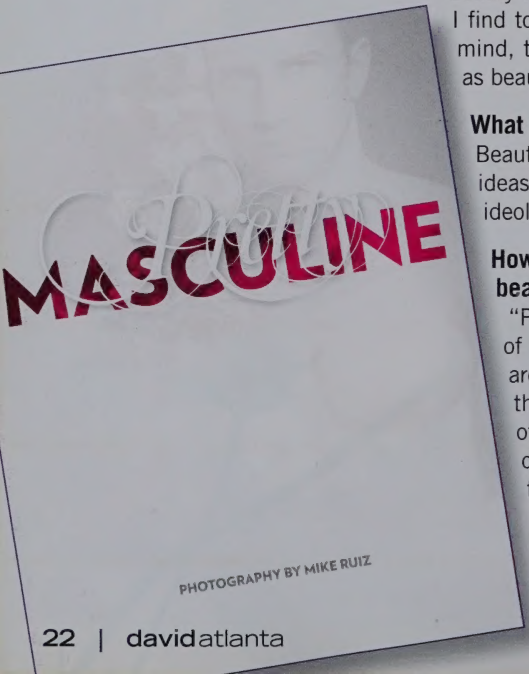
How do you define beauty?
Beauty is very individual and personal. However, I consider beauty to be represented in everything that denotes balance in our world and is in harmony with our environment. True beauty gratifies the senses, which in my case, inspires me to delve deeper into my creative psyche.

Isn't masculinity the opposite of beauty?
The opposite of beauty is ugliness. So, to define masculinity as ugly is nothing but a limitation and inherent misunderstanding of what masculinity represents. Masculinity, irrespective of how it is portrayed, is yet another facet of beauty.

Traditionally, men have been taught that beauty is a girl thing and that they shouldn't concern themselves with how they look.
Yes, western culture certainly has imposed its belief that the idea of beauty is relegated predominantly to the female gender. However, this preconception is very limited and I hope that, along with continued changes in our cultural behaviors and values, so too will we notice a shift in accepting that beauty is not "a girl thing". I, for one, extrapolate what I find to be beautiful and interpret it accordingly. In my mind, there are no limitations to what is to be deemed as beautiful.

What is the main message of Pretty Masculine?
Beauty is whatever we want it to be. Just be open to new ideas and to the possibility of breaking down inflexible ideological barriers.

How do the men in your book represent male beauty?
"Pretty Masculine" depicts just one of many facets of beauty. In this case, the subjects in my book are simply a study of male muscularity—captured through hyper-stylized imagery. The juxtaposition of accessories and materials commonly depicted in our society as being inherently feminine is meant to demonstrate that beauty is all-inclusive and not meant to be segregated.



Pretty MASCULINE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE RUIZ

Are they the male equivalent to a Barbie doll? Are they placing the beauty bar for men at an impossibly high mark?
There isn't or at least there shouldn't be any bar to define male beauty. Moreover, it is important to remember that the models in my book are real people. They come from many different walks of life and have many different interests and are of many different persuasions. They are all beautiful individuals with equally beautiful souls. To objectify, plasticize or minimize them by comparing them to Barbie dolls would be nothing more than a perpetuation of short-sighted stereotypical limitations.

Isn't true beauty really on the inside?
If you look closely enough, you'll realize that beauty is all around us—inside, outside and everywhere in between.

What are some things you do to be the most beautiful person you can be?
I live in my truth, openly and with joy.

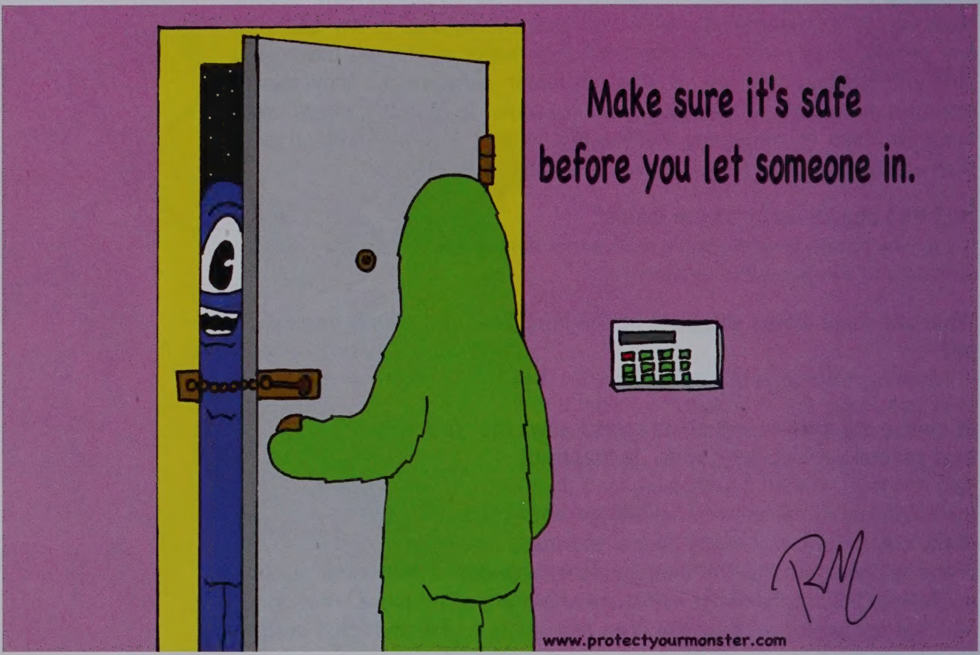
Of course we have to ask about recent news that you will not be part of next season's A List: New York. Is that true?
Yes, it is true. I won't be returning for a third season. I am most grateful to the producers of the show for having given me the opportunity to be a part of the cast. I have met many people and made many friends in the course of the last two seasons. The show gave me an awesome platform to discuss my general philosophy on life and share what's important to me. That said, I feel that my participation on the show has run its course and that I need to tend to other projects that are pending and continue focusing on my career as a photographer.

What is your parting advice to the guys of A List?
Love yourselves and remember that you are the masters of your own destiny.

For more information, visit http://www.mikeruiz.com/.

Protect Your Monster

by Richard Marshall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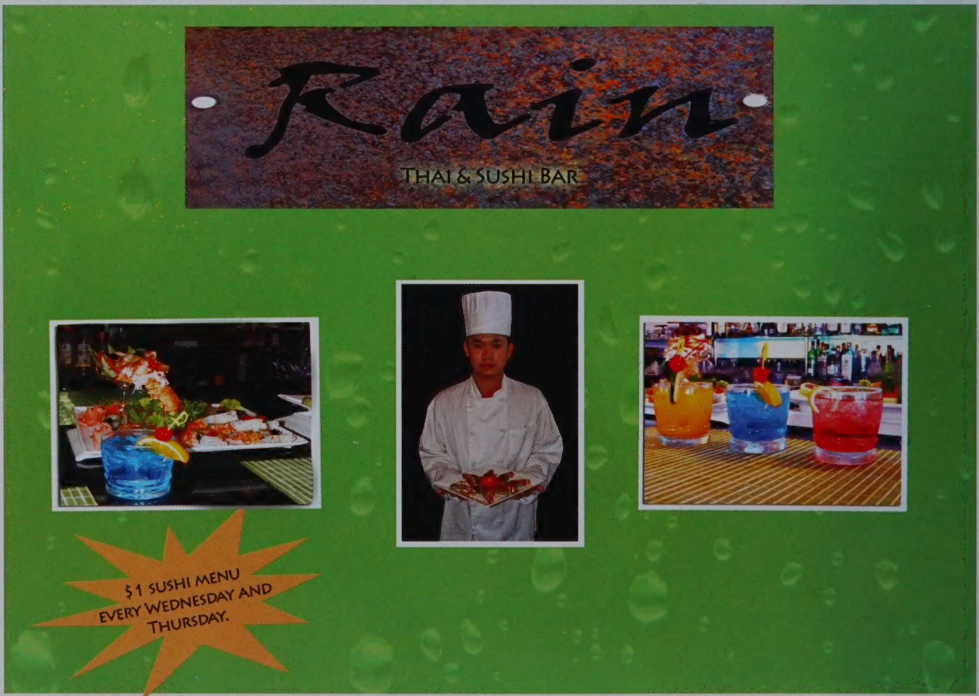
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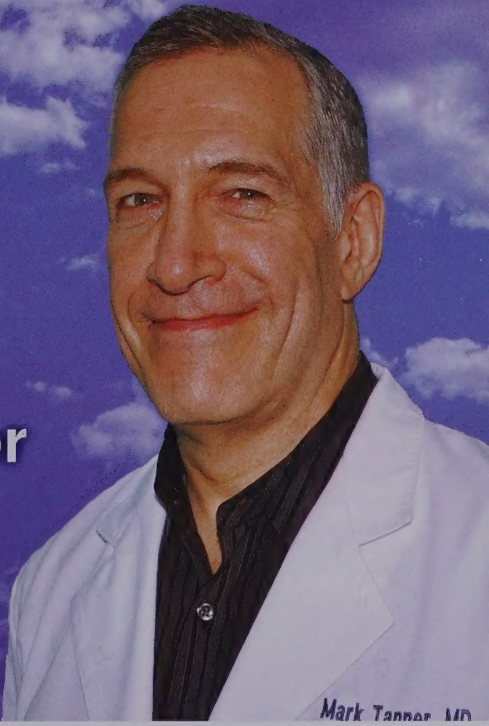

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Atlanta celebrates 11th Annual Bayard Rustin / Audre Lorde Breakfast

by Stasha Oakley

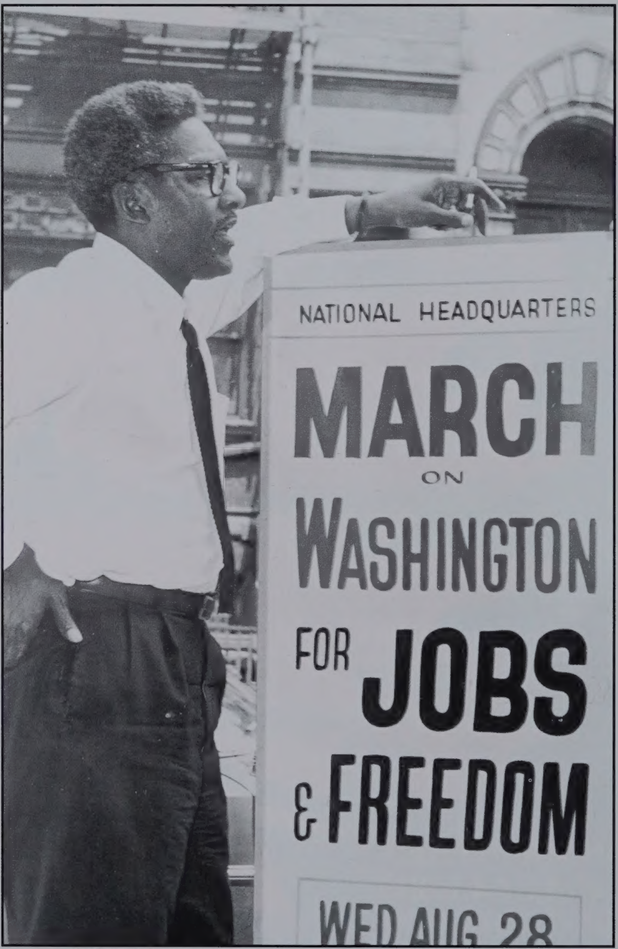
January 16th marks the eleventh annual Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Breakfast, a gathering of local community members to honor civil rights leader Bayard Rustin and activist-writer Audre Lorde. The event's official Facebook page describes the breakfast as "Food, Fun, Fierceness" and brings together fun and fierce activists, scholars, LGBTQ community members and allies to gather and connect before the annual Martin Luther King Jr. march.

The Rustin/Lorde Breakfast offers a free meal with group conversations, poetry readings, panel discussions, community building and education. Discussions encourage and motivate attendees to continue participating in local, national and global social justice throughout the year.

In 2002 founders Craig Washington and Darlene Hudson started the breakfast after organizing together at a local gay and lesbian center. The center was located near the beginning of the MLK Jr. march and they saw this as an opportunity for fellow LGBTQ organizers and community members to meet and break bread before marching. Inspired by the rallies held in the honor of Bayard Rustin, organizers sought to honor Rustin in a more comfortable, indoor environment.

Originally called just the Bayard Rustin Breakfast, organizers included Audre Lorde as an honored ancestor in 2008. The first breakfast had around 40 guests who gathered to watch and discuss the Bayard Rustin documentary *Brother Outsider.*

Bayard Rustin was a civil rights activist who organized the first Freedom Ride, the 1963 march on Washington for jobs


NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR JOBS & FREEDOM
WED AUG 28

Activist Bayard Rustin

> "When I dare to be **powerful** — to use my strength in the service of my vision — then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."
> – Audre Lorde

Poet Audre Lorde

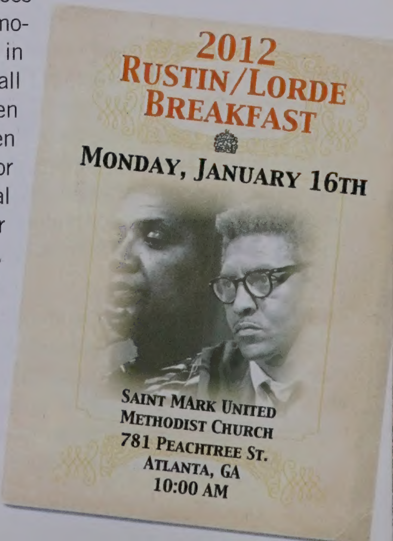
and freedom, the 1964 New York school boycott, and more. He worked with Mohandas Gandhi in India and brought the idea of non-violent resistance back to the United States. He acted as a mentor and advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., especially on issues of pacifism. King and Rustin together organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Despite the slander, discrimination and even arrest that his sexuality caused, he remained an out gay man until his death during a humanitarian mission in Haiti in 1987.

Caribbean-American poet, writer and activist Audre Lorde challenged contemporary feminist thought and fought for acknowledgement of class, race, sexuality, gender, age and health-related oppressions. Works include The Black Unicorn and The Marvelous Arithmetics of Distance. Lorde fought cancer for 14 years and documented her struggles, as well as the importance of community during sickness, in The Cancer Journals. She passed away of liver cancer in 1992 but said, "What I leave behind has a life of its own."

While both Rustin and Lorde have passed away, their legacy continues in the LGBTQ community, including Atlanta. March 17, 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of Bayard Rustin's birthday and the breakfast is one of many events honoring his life and work. According to According to Mandy Carter, National Coordinator of the Bayard Rustin Centennial Project within the National Black Justice Coalition, Rustin's enormous contributions to the Civil Rights Movement will be recognized in events throughout the country during 2012.

Lorde's biomythography *ZAMI: A New Spelling of My Name* is honored in name by Atlanta not-for-profit collective ZAMI-NOBLA (National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging) that "empowers and affirms the lives of lesbians of African descent." ZAMI is one of many community sponsors of the Rustin/Lorde Breakfast.

Recent years have seen more than 200 guests in attendance. Elders and youth alike join to commemorate black gay leaders and unsung heroes of social justice movements throughout history, although recently the breakfast has narrowed its focus toward current freedom struggles. In last year's opening speech Craig Washington called upon attendees to commemorate activists in the Stonewall Riots, Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, local transgender organizers, the Combahee River Collective, and more.



2012
RUSTIN/LORDE
BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH

SAINT MARK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
781 PEACHTREE ST.
ATLANTA, GA
10:00 AM

In the spirit of Bayard Rustin and Audre Lord, organizers invite a diverse array of groups and speakers that fall under the progressive umbrella. This is a point of pride for co-founder Washington who emphasized that attendance was diverse from the beginning. The growth in the number of guests brought more break-out groups and small table discussions so that a wide range of voices could be heard. "We weren't trying to have some traditional way that assumes the person on the podium is the only person whose knowledge is valued," says Washington.

Young people are especially encouraged to add their voices to the mix. The breakfast provides a unique multigenerational opportunity for LGBTQ youth and queer elders to meet and exchange ideas. Organizers seek to honor elders while placing value on the current contributions of young people in social justice movements. "The generational exchange is not one sided," explains Washington, "I've always pushed myself to be open and to invite younger people to continue to teach me."

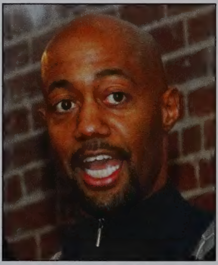


photo by ProjectQAtlanta.com

Craig Washington

In last year's breakfast, themed "Resilience," panelists led group discussions on what resilience means to social justice movements and guests shared experiences on their own personal resilience and strengths. Other discussion and panel topics have included HIV prevention justice, anti-bullying legislation, gender justice, and local advocacy engagement. Guests also hear stories of LGBTQ community organizing in the 1980s and 1990s from veteran Black gay and lesbian activists.

This year's theme "Setting the Agenda" gives guests the opportunity to network and discuss an overall sense of direction in social justice. While each guest and community group is unique, organizers hope to bridge gaps, vocalize common goals and support social justice groups that are out in the world working. "This event is an opportunity to talk about how we as individuals, groups and organizations can play a role in shaping our future," says co-founder Darlene Hudson in the event's official press release. Although panelists could not be confirmed as of publication, Hudson's co-organizer Craig Washington is particularly excited about the upcoming event.

Attendees praise the breakfast for fostering a nurturing sense of community. "It's a breakfast, not a conference," says Washington. Guests will definitely learn, engage in discussion and network with organizations, but most of all they will feel a sense of belonging. Guests to the 2012 breakfast are set to have fun, feel the impact of community and take that with them in their daily lives. Last year guests completed personal commitment forms to remind them of how they felt during the breakfast and to dedicate hours of service to community building organizations.

Organizers of the MLK Jr. march have always supported LGBT voices in the event and encouraged the growing breakfast. With Atlanta being an historical landmark city in the Civil Rights Movement and recently voted "The Gayest City in America," the Rustin/Lorde Breakfast really celebrates Atlanta's unique culture.

This incredible event is a great way to gain motivation, strength, inspiration and positivity before the MLK Jr. march. Whether you're a seasoned veteran of progressive movements or simply found online articles on Rustin and Lorde to be compelling, organizers encourage everyone to experience the Rustin/Lorde Breakfast at least once.

This year's Rustin/Lorde Breakfast will be held at 10 AM on January 16, 2012 at the Saint Mark United Methodist Church, 781 Peachtree Street Atlanta, GA. The breakfast is free and open to everyone. Donations are encouraged. The Martin Luther King Jr. march will assemble at 1:15 PM.

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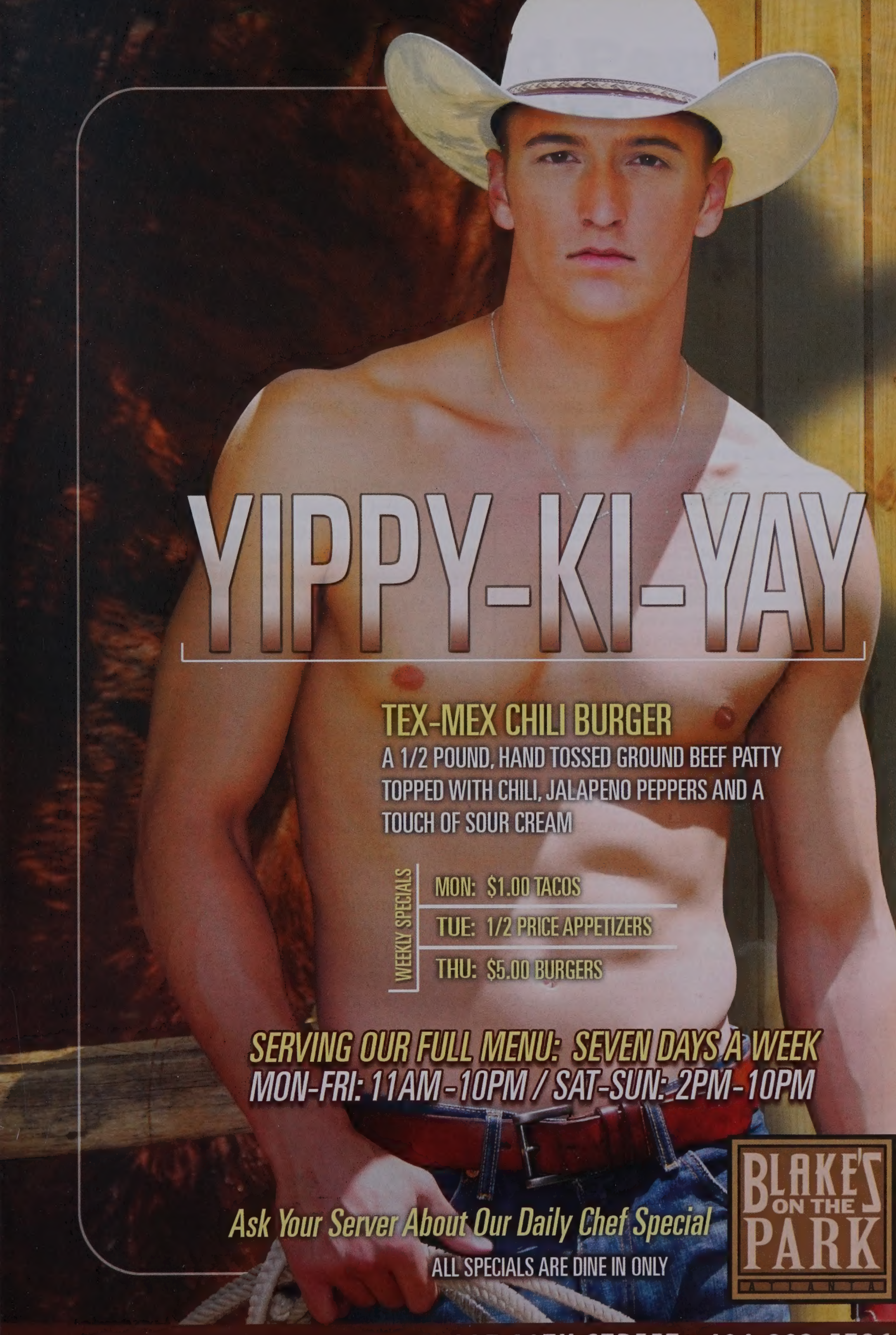

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I AM KING Celebration

by Brent Star

I'm not going to sound like my boy, Wikipedia, and give you all the breakdowns on the importance of Martin Luther King, Jr., but I will remind you that a huge part of the brilliant legacy that he left behind for us is the freedom to become whomever you want to become today, be it a President of the United States or become a successful President of Godfathers Pizza like Herman Cain.

BARS

Bulldog's, 893 Peachtree St. Ne, 30308 • Mon-Sat 4pm-3am, mostly men, 404 872-3025, facebook.com/pages/Bulldogs-Bar-Atlanta

The Daiquiri Factory, 889 W. Peachtree St., 30309 • Mon-Sun 11pm-2:30am, women & men, 404-881-8188, facebook.com/pages/The-Daiquiri-Factory

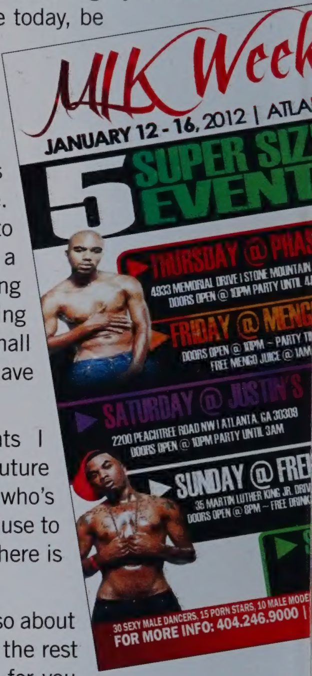
AFTER HOURS

Stall Afterhours @ Club 91, 91 Broad St Sw, 30303 • 3am-8am Fri-Sat-Sun nights, www.rtparties.com

But let me remind you my brothers and sisters (of all races) that sometimes 'freedom' isn't always free. It took decades to get to where we are today as a country, and of course, King played a key role in making sure it got done. Today, a small time writer like me STILL have a dream.

Aside for the bright lights I envision ahead for my future career, I dream that one day this country can stop making a big deal about who's sleeping with whom and stop wrongly USING God as their homophobia excuse to exercise hate crimes and bullying. I loved when King said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice EVERYWHERE!".

Ok, enough of me getting all serious, because like I said, this weekend is also about us celebrating who we are. Hell, you can fight for your freedom and rights the rest of the year! It's now time to party, and WASSUPNATL has it all lined up for you. Their founder, Mario Harris, said for 2012, they are calling it the "I AM KING CELEBRATION", which is "all about the attitude you should have about how you live your life. YOU are King of YOUR own world, whatever you are or whatever you're about".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FOR MORE INFO: 404.246.9000 |

WOMEN'S PARTIES

FRIDAY: The Ladies Lounge @ Glow, 3011 Buford Hwy, Atlanta • www.traxxgirls.com

SATURDAY: Secret Party @ Club Rain, 448 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW, Atlanta 30312 • Doors 10pm, www.traxxgirls.com

SUNDAY: Show Time @ Scores Sports Bar & Video Lounge, 2425 Wesley Chapel Rd • Variety Show, FREE parking, www.traxxgirls.com

SUNDAY: Ladies At Play MLK Winter Pride Gala @ The Venetian Room, 50 Hurt Plaza Atlanta, 30303 • 9pm-2:30am, $20, V103 DJ Cowboy & DJ Xzact, Dress Code: Red Carpet, coat check, VIP Tables & $15 Tix Online: Ladiesatplay.Com

He also said "This year we're offering NEW parties, NEW venues and experiences. This includes 30 male dancers, 15 porn stars, 10 male models, 5 djs, 4 emcees, 3 superstars, 2 legends, and 1 HUGE celebration". WASSUPNATL has always been pretty active in the party scene; in fact, they are celebrating their 10 year anniversary for this years' Labor Day. But for now, Mario says he looks forward to the 5000 Mega Men Party at Freight Depot on Sunday! DAMN, That's A LOT of MEN!!! Check out their official lineup for the I AM KING celebration weekend and don't forget to check out their website to find out how you can get a 5 day pass for only $50!

MLK Weekend Parties

Wednesday | Jan 11

Raquell Lord's Main Event Talent Show, Sophia Mcintosh & The Fabulous 5+1 @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St, Atlanta, 30308 • Doors 8pm, 21+ $5, 18-20 $10, www.traxxatlanta.com

Thursday | Jan 12

MLK Weekend Kickoff @ The Gold Room, 2416 Piedmont Rd NE, Atlanta • 10pm-3am, 21+, 6 bars, the Men of RockStar, www.privileged1ent.com

I AM KING @ Phase One, 4933 Memorial Dr., Atlanta 30083 • 10pm-4am, www.wassupnatl.com

MLK Weekend Kick-Off: Turnt Up Thursday @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St, Atlanta, 30308 • No Cover! Doors 11pm, 18+, www.traxxatlanta.com

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HWY NE | ATLANTA, GA 30324
EN @ 10PM PARTY UNTIL 4AM
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Friday | Jan 13

International Male Mixer @ Einsteins, 1077 Juniper St, Atlanta, 30309 • 6pm-10pm, www.thelionsdenatlanta.com

Welcome to The Atl: Southern Hospitality Mixer @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St, Atlanta, 30308 • No Cover! Doors 6pm, 21+, Drink, Dine, Dance. www.traxxatlanta.com

Boyz Gone Wild @ The Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Rd, 30324 • 10pm-3am, FREE B4 12am, www.thelionsdenatlanta.com

Trio @ Mengos, 91 Broad St NW, Atlanta, 30303 • 10pm-4am, FREE Mengo Juice @1am, www.wassupnatl.com

Saturday | Jan 14

Inferno Dominican Republic & House Of Chapple Model Search @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St, Atlanta, 30308 • No Cover! 6pm-9pm, Swimwear Fashion Show, $1,000 Model Search, BYO swimwear, www.traxxatlanta.com

Celebrity Night @ The Daiquiri Factory, 889 W. Peachtree St., 30309 • 8pm, with Maurice Jamal of GLO TV, cast of Noah's Arc & more, info 678-949-3372

Int'l Male @ Club 595 North, 595 North Ave. NW, 30324 • 10pm-3am, FREE B4 midnight, VIP Style, Swagga & Class www.rockstarsproduction.com

LIV @ Justins, 2200 Peachtree Rd, Atlanta, 30309 • 10pm-3am, www.wassupnatl.com

Man2Man MLK Weekend Bash @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St, Atlanta, 30308 • Doors 10pm, 21+, hookah, VIP Reservations: 904-200-5883, $1,000 Hot Body Contest with the Men Of Dark Centaur, www.traxxatlanta.com

The Movement: Remembering The King & Traxx Atlanta 25th Anniversary Party @ The Freight Depot, 1 MLK Jr Dr. SE, in Underground Atlanta • Doors 10pm, 18+, host Kimbella From Love & Hip Hop, King Weekend Jaycette Competition @ 8pm, www.traxxatlanta.com

Superman High @ Club 91, 91 Broad St Sw, 30303, 3am-8am afterparty, www.rtparties.com

Sunday | Jan 15

House of Ebony Mini Ball @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St., Atlanta, 30308 • Doors 4pm, Ball 5pm sharp, The Face Diva hosts, www.xcessultralounge.com

I AM KING Celebration @ Freight Depot, 35 MLK Jr Dr., 30334 • Doors 8pm, $10 b4 10pm, FREE drinks til midnight, 30 sexy dancers, www.wassupnatl.com

International Male: The Main Event @ Club Europe, 4001 Presidential Pkwy, Atlanta, 30340 • 9pm-4am, host Kandi of Real Housewives of Atlanta, Xtreme All Male Review, www.thelionsdenatlanta.com

Wet In ATL Strip Club, 2241 Faulkner Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30324, off Cheshire Bridge Rd, 2nd bldg behind Jungle, at the end • 9pm-5am, info 404-590-8242, www.wetinatl.com

WassupNATL @ Chaparral, 2715 Buford Hwy, Atlanta, 30324 • 10pm-4am, www.wassupnatl.com

MLK Events

Thursday | Jan 12

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra: 20th Anniversary King Concert @ Atlanta Symphony Hall, 1280 Peachtree St. NE Atlanta, 30309 • 8pm, $55-125, with Yo-Yo Ma, Spelman College Glee Club, Morehouse College Glee Club, www.atlantasymphony.org

Friday | Jan 13

Public Enemy & Arrested Development @ The Atrium Complex, 5479 Memorial Dr., Stone Mountain, GA 30083 • also TrOyMaN, Lack of Flaws, DJ Eddie F., $45, atlantaMLKweekend2012.eventbrite.com

Saturday | Jan 14

The Legends of Hip Hop @ the Atrium Complex, 5479 Memorial Dr., Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083 • with Doug E. Fresh, Big Daddy Kane, Kid N Play, Slick Rick, Whodini, EPMD, $45, atlantaMLKweekend2012.eventbrite.com

Monday | Jan 16

11th Annual Bayard Rustin / Audre Lorde Breakfast @ Saint Mark United Methodist Church, 781 Peachtree St., Atlanta • 10am-1pm, FREE, everyone invited, www.facebook.com/RustinLordeBreakfast

Martin Luther King Jr. March & Rally, 1:30 p.m • Assemble at the East corner of Peachtree and Ellis St; Rally on Auburn Ave. in King National Park, www.MLKmarchaaar.org

NYE @ 5 Napkins

see more photos at davidatlanta.com

¡Masturbador Masculino 3D!

por Luis Chiruco

De la empresa japonesa Tenga conocíamos el flip hole y los tenga egg, dos clásicos entre los masturbadores masculinos, que me he encontrado hasta en algún supermercado.

También sabíamos que desde la entrada de la firma nipona en nuestro país se habían propuesto revolucionar el mercado de los juguetes sexuales que hasta entonces parecía más destinado al público femenino.

Si no lo ha conseguido ya, están muy cerca de hacerlo, pero por lo menos han sacado estos artículos de los sex-shops y ahora todos podemos verlos con más naturalidad. ¿Verlos o probarlos?

Yo les voy a presentar la nueva familia que ha llegado este 2011 y que apuesto a que la noche del próximo 6 de enero aparecen en más de un zapato.

Sí, puedes pedirle tranquilamente un Tenga 3D a los Reyes(o le hayan pedido) ya que su aspecto pasa tan desapercibido que absolutamente nadie sospechará que lo que te han traído no es una escultura, una vela o cualquier otro infensivo artículo de decoración. Son cinco modelos, cada uno de ellos con su nombre y textura para un tipo diferente de placer.

Desde los pequeños bloques de diferente profundidad del Module a la textura triangular, bien de forma uniforme como en Pile o asimétrica en Polygon lleno de sorpresas. Yo me pregunto si realmente las sensaciones que experimentas serán tan diferentes dependiendo del modelo que utilices.

Al menos elige el que mejor pegue con la decoración de tu casa. Spiral y Zen basan su forma en una serie de espirales con mayor o menor relieve y completan la colección.

Ya conoces a los cinco enanitos, ahora tú decides si prefieres probarlos o regalarlos para que sean otros los que se apliquen el cuento. El precio de cada uno es de unos 60 dlls. ¿Acaso los mejores regalos no son aquellos que tú nunca te comprarías?, ¿serán o no pequeñas obras de arte? ...probando probando....got leche?

BARTAB map

BAR | CLUB

1 Amsterdam
502 Amsterdam Ave.
www.amsterdamatlanta.com

2 Bellissima
560-B Amsterdam Ave.
www.myspace.com/
bellissima_lounge

3 Blakes on the Park
227 10th St.
www.blakesontheparkatlanta.com

4 Bliss Atlanta
2284 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.blissofatlanta.com

5 BJ Roosters
2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.myspace.com/bjroostersat

6 Bulldogs
893 Peachtree St.

7 Burkhart's
1492 Piedmont Ave.
www.burkharts.com

8 Chaparral
2715 Buford Hwy
www.chaparralalternative.com

9 Eagle
306 Ponce de Leon Ave.
www.atlantaeagle.com

10 Felix's
1510 Piedmont Ave

11 Friends on Ponce
736 Ponce de Leon Ave.
www.friendsonponce-atl.com

12 Gilberts
219 10th St.
www.gilbertscafe.com

13 Heretic
2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.hereticatlanta.com

14 Joe's on Juniper
1049 Juniper St
www.joesonjuniper.com

15 Jungle
2115 Faulkner Rd.
www.jungleclubatlanta.com

16 LeBuzz
585 Franklin Rd SE # A-10
www.thenewlebuzz.com

17 Las Margaritas
1842 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.lasmargaritasmidtown.com

18 Mary's
1287 Glenwood Ave.
www.marysatlanta.com

19 Mixx
1492 Piedmont Ave - B
www.mixxatlanta.com

20 Model T's
699 Ponce De Leon Ave NE
#11. www.modeltatlanta.com

21 My Sisters Room
1271 Glenwood Ave
www.mysistersroom.com

22 Opus 1
1086 Alco St.

23 Oscars Atlanta
1510 Piedmont Ave NE
www.oscarsatlanta.com

24 Swinging Richards
1400 Northside Dr.
www.swingingrichards.com

25 The Cockpit
465 Boulevard Ave
www.thecockpit-atlanta.
blogspot.com

26 The Hideaway
1544 Piedmont Rd NE,
Suite 124. www.atlantahideaway.
com

27 Tripps
1931 Piedmont Circle
www.trippsatlanta.com

28 Woofs
2425 Piedmont Rd NE
www.woofsatlanta.com

29 91
91 Broad St

GYM | SPA

30 Flex
76 4th St.
www.flexbaths.com

31 Gravity Fitness
2201 Faulkner Rd
www.gravityatl.com

32 Manifest4U
2103 Faulkner Road
www.manifest4u.org

RETAIL

9 Rawhide Leather
at the Eagle. 404.881.0031

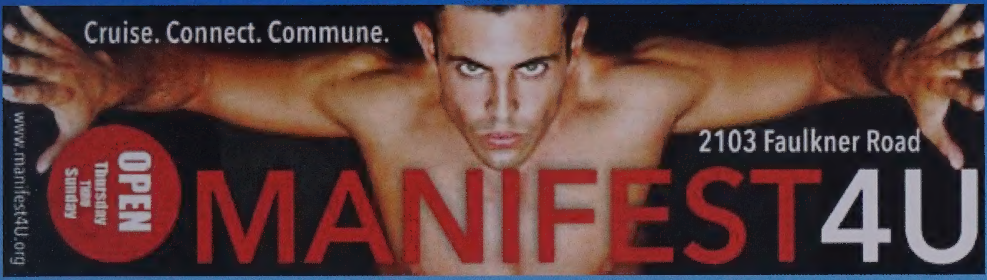
33 Brushstrokes/ Capulets
1510 Piedmont Ave.
www.brushstrokesatlanta.com

34 Boy Next Door
1447 Piedmont Rd.
www.boynextdoor.biz

35 Outwrite Bookstore & Café
991 Piedmont Ave.
www.outwritebooks.com

36 Poster Hut
2175 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.myspace.com/posterhut

37 Southern Nights Videos
2205 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.southernnights.com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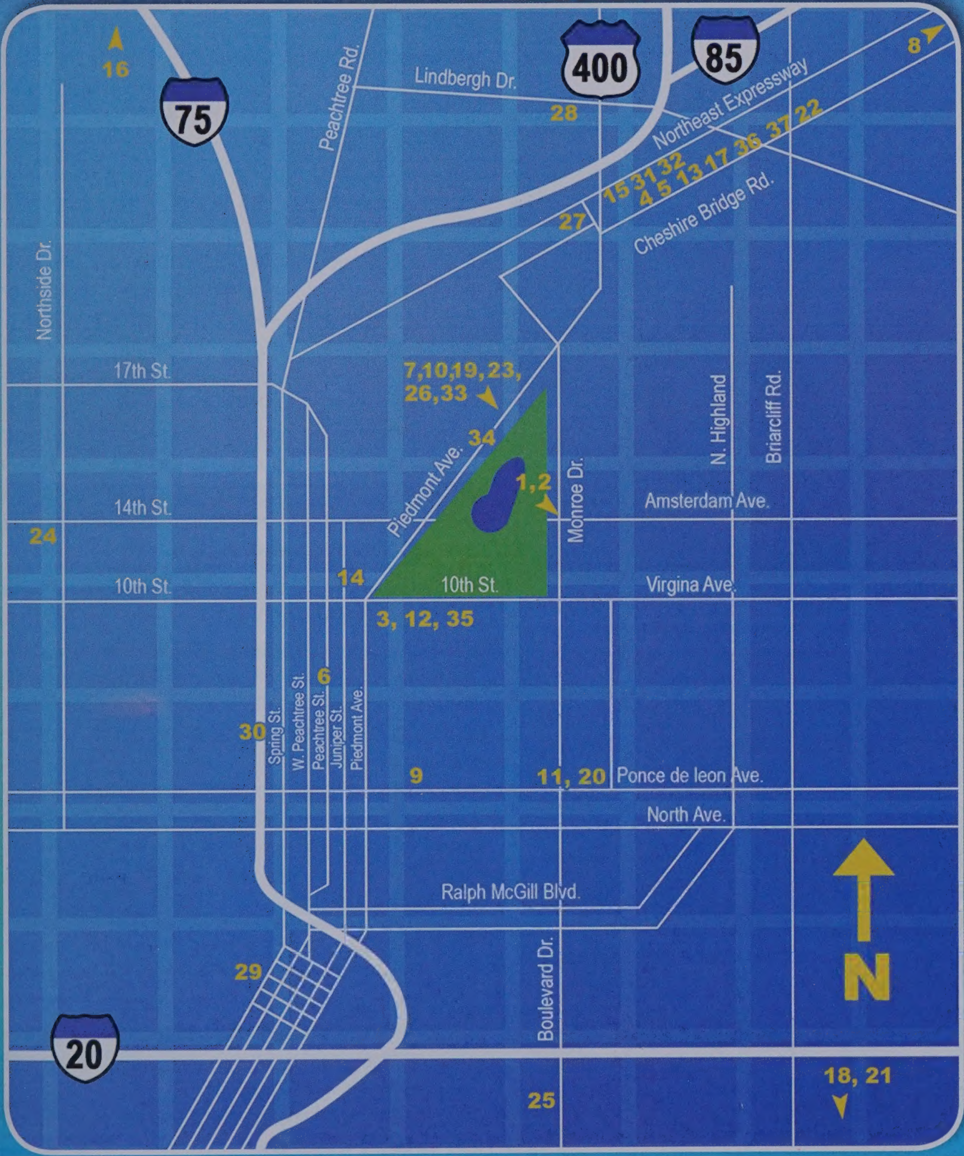
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Cheshire Bridge Rd.
Northside Dr.
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Monroe Dr.
N. Highland
Briarcliff Rd.
14th St.
Amsterdam Ave.
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Virgina Ave.
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Spring St.
W. Peachtree St.
Peachtree St.
Juniper St.
Piedmont Ave.
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11, 20
Ponce de leon Ave.
North Ave.
Ralph McGill Blvd.
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Boulevard Dr.
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25
18, 21

Ani DiFranco

¿Which Side Are You On?

When I talk about Ani DiFranco, people often discount her as an angry lesbian. Don't get me wrong, DiFranco has some angry songs in her catalog but she's been releasing albums since 1990. While there's nothing wrong with being angry, the problem is people have confused anger with a message. She's succeeded through two decades of making music so apparently there's an audience getting the message.

Over the years, DiFranco has become part of a musical family tree that branches from New Orleans to New York. Over the last decade, you've heard her tracks mature, the same way a tree grows and its roots lodge themselves deeper into the ground. While she now calls New Orleans her home, Righteous Babe Records still makes its home in Buffalo, NY. This album features Cyril Neville, Pete Seeger, saxophonist Skerik (Bonnie Raitt, REM, Pearl Jam) and even shows DiFranco's commitment to the principles she espouses by including The Roots of Music Marching Crusaders, part of a music education program for at-risk middle-school students in New Orleans.

The title track Which Side Are You On, a labor anthem written in the 1930's and popularized by Pete Seeger in the 1960's, has been contemporized in the current political and economic climate by DiFranco. On J, DiFranco compares our materialistic society to a drug addiction and laments that it's illegal to smoke marijuana but not to push the need for increased consumption upon the masses. The New Orleans metaphor that permeates the first part of the track is a strong testament to the lingering effects of Katrina. On Promiscuity, DiFranco eschews the fact that promiscuity is bad when she sings " . . . how you gonna know what you need what you like til you been around the block a few times on that bike . . ." The only track in which I miss the message is Amendment, but that may be because I'm not a woman.

While the angry message songs are there, it's the songs of reflection and love (yes, love songs) that are the album's strongest tracks. On If Yr Not, DiFranco sings " . . . if yr not getting happier as you get older then your f***ing up . . ." Upon listening to Hearse, I could only envision the picture of the dog at the soldier's funeral that was plastered over the internet earlier this year. Love can be a powerful emotion and DiFranco sums it up when she sings ". . . I will follow you into the next life like a dog chasing after a hearse . . ."

Ani's albums can sometimes feel a bit uneven but *¿Which Side Are You On?* may be her strongest album since *Little Plastic Castle*. I used to bank on the fact that DiFranco would release an album every 12-18 months, but maybe the 3 year lag between this and 2008's *Red Letter Year* really pays off. Ani, you asked which side am I on . . . yours. B+

Ani DiFranco plays at Variety Playhouse February 3rd.

Top 10 Tracks

1. Mixtape (Blonde P Remix) - Marvin-Paul Ambrosius
2. DJ Ease My Mind - Niki & The Dove
3. Mr. Wrong - Mary J. Blige
4. Alive - Adrian Lux feat. The Good Natured
5. Sonogram - Soul Brother
6. Marry the Night - Lady GaGa
7. Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You) - Kelly Clarkson
8. Shake N Fries - Ludacris feat. Gucci Mane
9. Bad Date - Oh My!
10. Unzip Me - Cazwell feat. Peaches

By Dustin Shelby. Check out more music at Dustin's blog at www.echodust.com

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Denis the Menace

Getting down to earth with one of the scariest men on television

By Chris Azzopardi

Meeting Denis O'Hare should be scary as hell. But today, in the back of homo-hotspot Saint Felix in West Hollywood on his day off, O'Hare doesn't project the eeriness he does as a horny *True Blood* vamp and mysteriously deformed man who just suffocated a potential homebuyer on American Horror Story.

So far during the debut season of the smash FX show, O'Hare, who plays Larry Harvey, has dosed a house in gasoline, killed the-man-of-the-house's mistress and fought fervently for a home that's become a tough sell – and not just because the economy is sucking.

"Murder House," as it's called, is a freaky L.A. residence with a dark past and a new family: the Harmons, a threesome hopeful for a new start. But what's up with the neighbors, including Jessica Lange's crazy super-mom Constance? And who's this Larry guy and why is this house so important to him?

O'Hare leans back after taking a sip of his cranberry/orange/seltzer water concoction – his "incredibly demanding diva drink" – and tells us. "I don't think he's evil. He's acting out of a particular desire for something. For me, all characters have a justification for their behavior; they always think that what they're doing is necessary for a reason. Even *Phantom of the*

Opera has a real reason: He was in love with someone, he was scarred, he wants love and revenge."

O'Hare, at this very moment, just wants some food. He orders a smorgasbord of nibblers that he eats in between talk of Ryan Murphy's *AHS*, the upcoming season of *True Blood* and the new foster child he's caring for with husband Hugo Redwood, who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y. Holding his phone up, O'Hare flips through photos of his family, looking for the one of the kid flashing his happy-as-can-be grin. Like O'Hare's partner, the actor's nearly-1-year-old baby's black, and when he comes upon one pic – of the boy atop O'Hare's lap and a friend's child, who's white, sitting on Redwood – he finally breaks into a maniacal smirk.

"We're the right wing's worst nightmare," O'Hare says. "Wrong colored baby on the wrong person's lap – oh my god!"

And you thought Larry was scary.

Before getting the call from Ryan Murphy desperately wanting O'Hare to take on Larry, the actor was already doing creepy on *True Blood* as the ancient former vampire king of Mississippi, Russell Edgington.

Premiering this summer, season five sees the return of the Master of Nutcases, as the 2,800-year-old bloodsucker makes a return to the set after skipping out on the last go-'round. What's to become of him after rising from the cement he was buried under?

"Nothing I can share," O'Hare says, noting a recent lunch he had with out *True Blood* mastermind Alan Ball, the creator of *Six Feet Under*. "We talked about what's going to happen and I was definitely surprised. It's good stuff. It's always good stuff. With him, and with Ryan (Murphy), they don't go to obvious places. They go where you wouldn't expect them to go."

And so does O'Hare. The actor, who's actually so down-to-earth and non-creepy that he offers to share his food during our hour-long chat, is good at playing bad. He was relentless at getting Sandra Bullock kicked out of the country in rom-com *The Proposal*, and played way against type in *Milk* as Sen. John Briggs, who proposes a California ballot initiative to outlaw gay and lesbian teachers. Recently, O'Hare had a blink-and-you'll-miss-it scene in the Hoover biopic *J. Edgar*, a chance to work again with Clint Eastwood (O'Hare starred alongside Angelina Jolie in *Changeling* as, what do you know, a psych ward bad guy).

O'Hare, who turns 50 in January, got his start where most actors do: on the stage. Growing up in Michigan, he was in choir and, in 1974, landed a chorus part in a community theater production of *Show Boat*. Then it was Broadway, where he played in Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins* in 2004, scored a Tony Award for his performance in *Take Me Out* and was part of the revival of *Sweet Charity*.

In January, O'Hare heads back to New York – and back to the stage. He'll be doing *An Iliad* off-Broadway through March, when he returns to L.A. for *True Blood*.

The best part of being back in N.Y.? Seeing the family. He married Redwood, an interior designer, over the summer, and the two have been caring for their foster child since April.

"I could've gone to my grave without having kids, but I came around to liking the idea," O'Hare admits, noting he warmed up to the thought after seven years of talks with Redwood. "As a gay man, I find my biggest stumbling block was my own homophobia, my own sense of feeling that gay people shouldn't have kids. I felt pressure from society that we're not supposed to have kids" – not to mention, he says, that once you do, it's like wearing a gay yamaka – "and I was also shy about being a spokesperson for gay adoption."

And now he's the gushing father who's looking for just the right pic to show off the kid's smile. His foster child laughs a lot, but how could he not? "I speak to him in bad French," O'Hare says, "and he dies."

O'Hare's encounters with gay couples and their kids helped him shake off his

internalized homophobia, something he says is difficult to diagnose in ourselves, and he finally accepted the idea of having his own with Redwood. "It's been normalized for me," he says, deliberating. "But it's like being married.

"It's so hard to say the word 'husband' at first. I say 'partner,' and then suddenly realize if I say 'husband,' it might be aggressively political – but then it's like, what the fuck? What else am I gonna say? He's my husband. We are legally married."

And how do other people react?

"People are a little shocked at first, but they're gonna get the fuck over it and pretty soon it'll be normal – because it should be normal!"

Part of it, however, is that O'Hare doesn't want everything about him to be "gay". Especially not his acting.

"For me, an actor is an actor. Years ago someone said to me, 'How do you feel about being a gay actor?' I said, 'I'm not a gay actor. I'm an actor. I'm Irish. I'm an atheist. And a bridge player. I ride my bike. Oh, and I'm gay.'"

He fits right in on the set of *American Horror Story*, one of the gay-friendliest projects he's ever worked on. No surprise there: This is a Ryan Murphy production, after all. "I've met more female lesbian gaffers on Ryan's show than I've ever met anywhere else in my life!" O'Hare says.

Because Murphy's schedule is nuts, with *Glee* now in its third season, he doesn't come around the *AHS* set often. But when he does, "he's a great spirit" – no pun intended – "on the set. He's the kind of guy who believes in a world of possibilities. He makes things happen."

"Crazy" is what O'Hare calls the set, shot in the Paramount lot in L.A. right behind the infamous Hollywood Cemetery (as if the show wasn't creepy enough).

"We never really know what we're doing until the day before," he says. "Everyone's cool with it. The scenes, even when they're intense, are fun."

When O'Hare was sent the script directly from Murphy back in March, just a few weeks before shooting, he was immediately intrigued. The show takes cues from many of his favorite horror classics and the legendary names behind them: Vincent Price, Peter Lorre, Bela Lugosi and Martin Landau.

"What I think is great about the show is that Ryan's kind of consciously quoting from great works," he says. "'Don't go in the basement' is one of the biggest horror tropes, or 'don't open the door' – they're all horror tropes, and he's using all of them in a really cool way. And I hear some people say, 'Well, it's unrealistic. Who'd stay in the house?' That's just a given. Let's just let them stay in the house."

Now he's starting to sound a lot like Larry, who's so insistent that the Harmons stick around you wonder what the dude's got up his sleeve. "I think Larry has a very clear overarching goal, which is redemption and release," O'Hare says, "and that is all tied up in the house."

For O'Hare, the role requires three-and-a-half hours of makeup, transforming the actor's face into the questionable burn victim and leaving O'Hare with half of his hearing and sight. On the first day of shooting, Murphy walked him through Larry's limp and shriveled arm. "He's got the vision in his head, so he had to be very clear about what we should to do," O'Hare says, "and I like that about him – he's a very clear director."

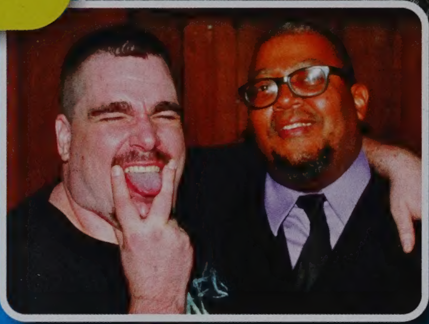
That helps, but with *True Blood*, O'Hare knew what he wanted for Russell Edgington.

"I felt no need to make Russell act gay, because he is gay," he says, adding that because the vamp's so ancient, homosexuality didn't even really exist then, "and I know as a gay man I don't have to demonstrate that I'm gay. The fact that I'm sleeping with a man is the demonstration."

And that's gay?

O'Hare smiles big and non-creepy. "Not always, but for the most part."

NYE @ the Eagle



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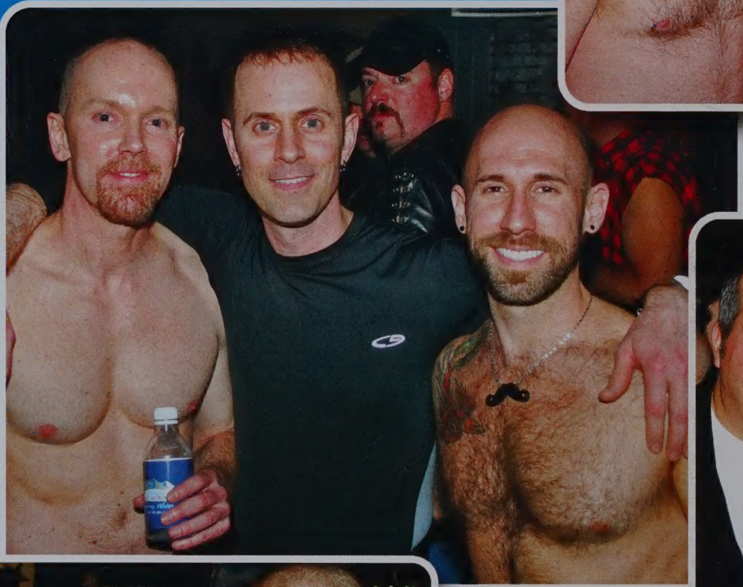

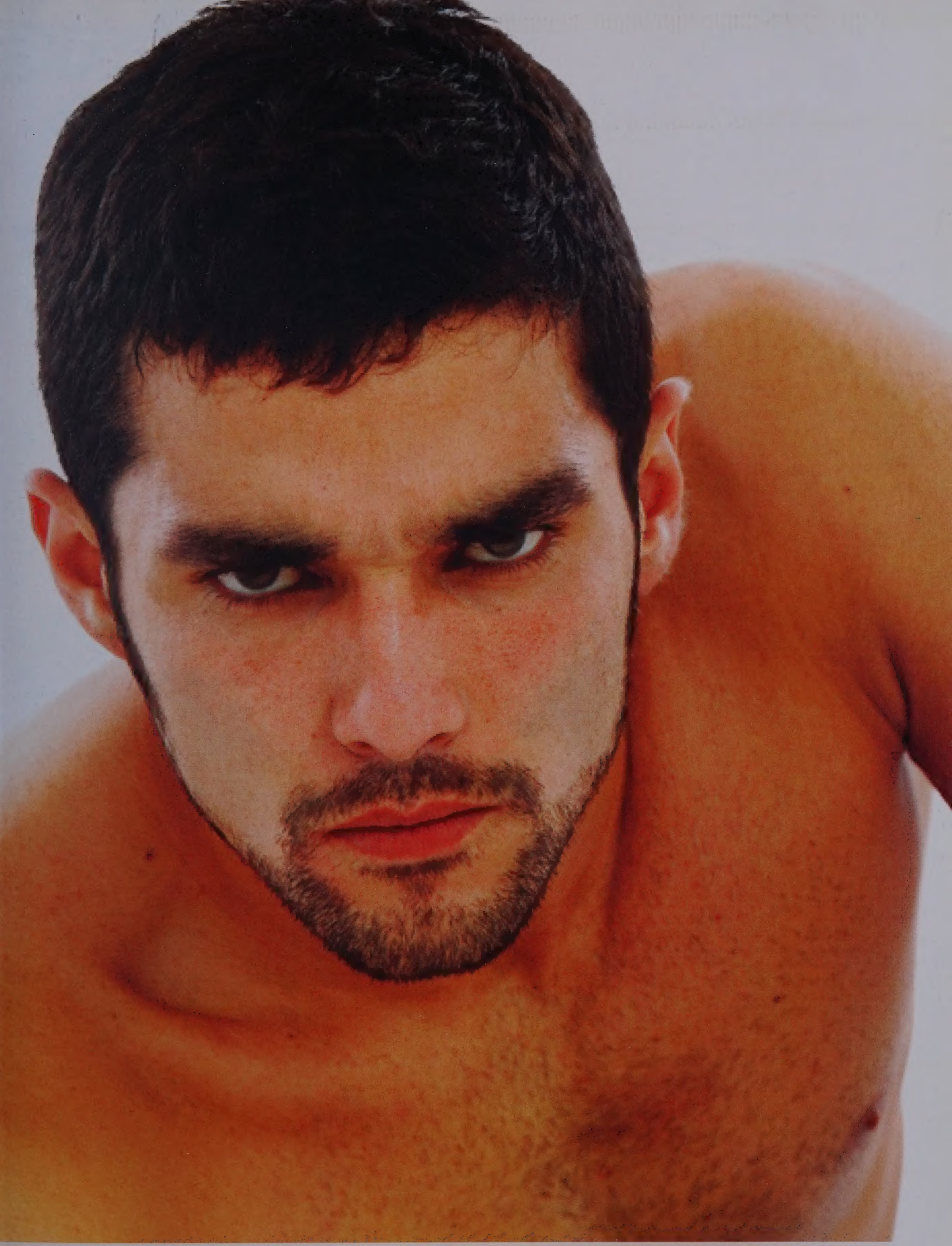

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BARTAB calendar

MONDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK
Drag On The Edge Show 11pm

THE EAGLE Comedy TV- Free Pool

FRIENDS ON PONCE
Bad Boy Brian opens at 2pm

HERETIC Industry Night with Brian; Dance Floor Open @ 10pm

JUNGLE Stars of the Century Show 11pm

THE HIDEAWAY $2.50 Domestic Beer

FELIX'S Free Pool

THE COCKPIT Big Red Cup Mondays All Day & 1/2 Price Appetizers 5-8pm

TUESDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK I Gotta Sing! Hosted by Jealose & Jerry (Karaoke) 11pm

THE EAGLE Tuesdays with Tony

FRIENDS ON PONCE
Let's Make a Deal 6pm

HERETIC Time Warp – 70's, 80's, & 90's Music with Paul; Dance Floor Opens 10pm

SWINGING RICHARDS
No Cover Before Midnight, $5 After

THE HIDEAWAY
Service Industry Night - Employee Prices. Trivia w/ Will 9pm - 11pm

FELIX'S Smirnoff Martini Night

THE COCKPIT DUDE: 80s Party, 9pm & 1/2 Price Appetizers 5-8pm

CHAPARRAL HipHop til 4am, $5

WEDNESDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK
Feathers & Flesh Burlesque Revue 11pm

THE EAGLE 80's Music with Travis

FRIENDS ON PONCE Bingo 8pm

HERETIC H.U.M.P Dress Code Party w/ DJ Lydia Prim.

SWINGING RICHARDS 2-4-1 VIP Room

THE HIDEAWAY Craps & Blackjack with Miss Lauren

THE COCKPIT
Balls Deep Karaoke, 10pm with Mikey and Wesley &1/2 Price Appetizers 5-8pm

THURSDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK
Texas Hold'Em Poker 7pm,
The Shawna Factor Show, 11pm

THE EAGLE Karaoke with Mikey

FRIENDS ON PONCE Where Girls Who Like Girls Meet Girls all night

HERETIC : 3- Legged Cowboy Night @ 10pm; Dance Lessons @ 8pm

JUNGLE Cherry Pop Thursday!

LAS MARGARITAS
Crazy Bitch Bingo 7:30pm

SWINGING RICHARDS
2-4-1 VIP Room & 2-4-1 Door Entry

THE HIDEAWAY Levi & Leather Night

FELIX'S Karaoke w/ Brett & Tyler 10pm

THE COCKPIT
Dirty Boy Bingo, 9pm w/ Ruby Redd

FRIDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK
Kitty LeClaw's Meow Mix Show 11pm

THE EAGLE DJ Dance Party

FRIENDS ON PONCE
Happy Times with Bad Boy Brian & Ken

HERETIC Primal Urges with DJ Lydia Prim; No Cover Before 10pm, $5 after

JUNGLE Club Night, Various DJ's

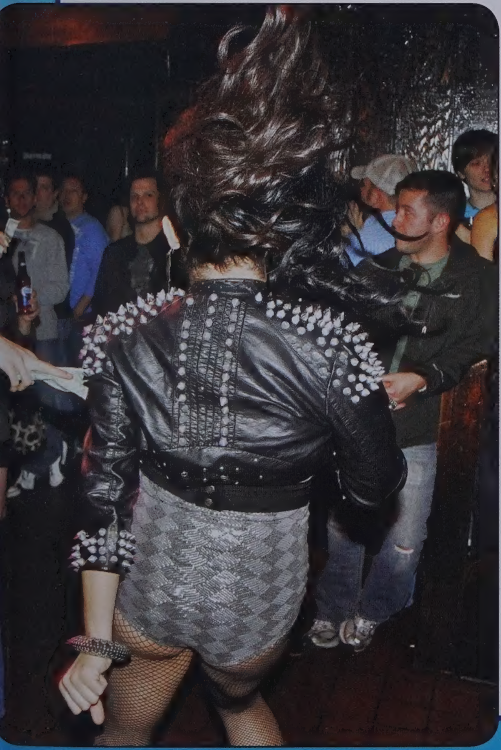
SWINGING RICHARDS
T-Shirt Review, $10 Cover

CHAPARRAL Got Leche? til 4am, $10

THE HIDEAWAY
After Work Martini Madness

FELIX'S Bartenders Serve It Up!

THE COCKPIT Rotating VJ's & DJ's, (resident DJ, Diablo Rojo)



SATURDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK
Jealose's Daring Diva's Show 11pm

THE EAGLE DJ Dance Party

FRIENDS ON PONCE
Open @ noon with Bob Brewer

HERETIC Club Night, Various Guest DJ's. No Cover Before 11pm.

JUNGLE Club Night, Various Guest DJ's.

SWINGING RICHARDS
T-Shirt Review, $10 Cover

FELIX'S Karaoke w/ Brett & Tyler 10pm

THE COCKPIT Rotating VJ's & DJ's, (resident DJ, Diablo Rojo)

SWINGING RICHARDS
T-Shirt Review, $10 Cover

CHAPARRAL Dance Party

FELIX'S Karaoke w/ Brett & Tyler 10pm

THE COCKPIT Rotating VJ's & DJ's, (resident DJ, Diablo Rojo)

CHAPARRAL DJ Jay McKracken, $5

SUNDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK
Sunday Brunch 12-3, DJ's Bill Berdeaux and Daryl Cox Spin All Night.

FRIENDS ON PONCE Bad Boy Brian's Smirnoff B Mary Bar 12:30pm

LAS MARGARITAS
All You Can Eat Brunch 11am-3pm

THE HIDEAWAY
Make Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 12:30pm

FELIX'S
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THE COCKPIT
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CHAPARRAL Hip Hop w DJ Truz, no cover

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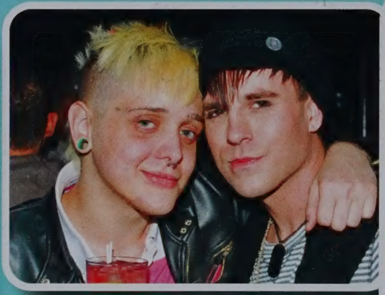

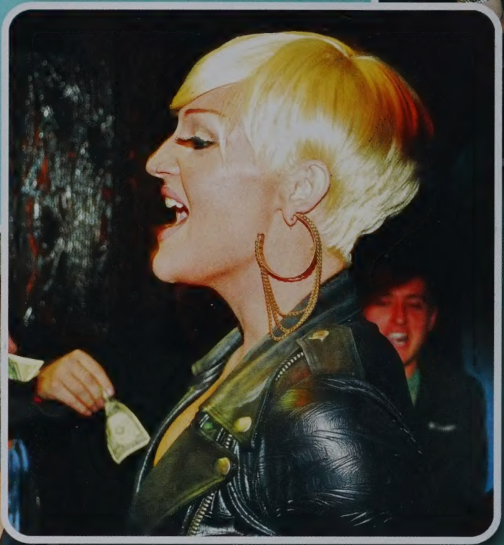

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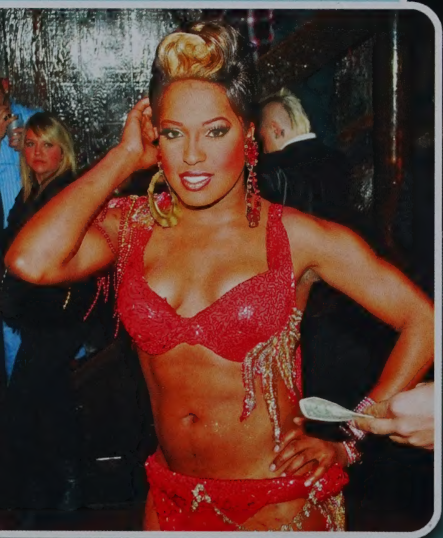

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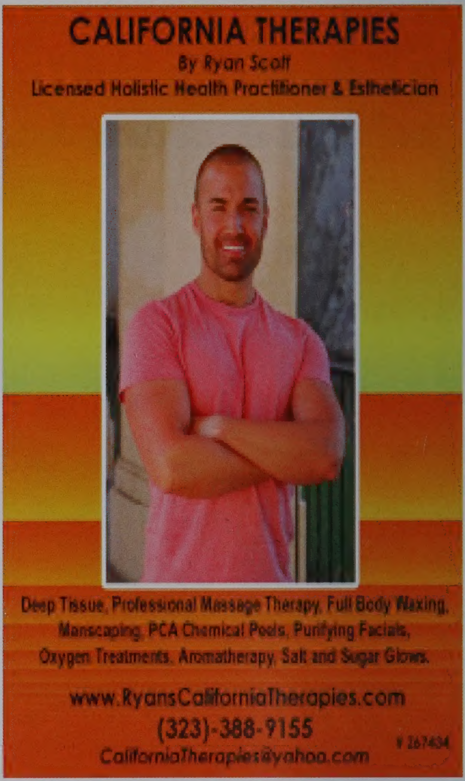

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ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Getting ahead depends on self-discipline, attention to details and questions of skill. Subtle hints from superiors can save you a lot of grief. The Golden Rule may not alleviate confusion in your relationships, but it will make it more manageable.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Worrying about your career doesn't help, but list real concerns and look for practical answers. "Helpful" friends will offer hundreds of ideas. A few of those are actually very good. A relaxing time out would help you restore clarity.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Sexual frustration is about quality, not quantity. The need for emotional depth and commitment may surprise you. If partnered, you're overdue for a good talk. If single, discuss it with someone whose wisdom you respect or write your feelings down.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): It's too easy to obsess on minutiae. Better to clear out garbage and clutter. Your partner or another good friend will be glad to help you decide what needs to go. Let a sibling get saddled with the family keepsakes.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Being sensitive to others will help you get ahead, but don't give away the store; keep terms and boundaries clear. Confusion too easily feeds into arguments. Keeping a critical eye on your own human and material resources can fend off trouble.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): A mad, passionate fling may leave you spinning and wanting more. It's not love, so keep your expectations in check. Your wicked tongue is a potent weapon. Be careful where you aim that thing!

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Would a fleeting, tawdry affair make you feel cheap and used? That could be half the fun. Keep your eyes open and your mind clear. If you do get swept off your feet, you will have to pick up the mess.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Pressure at work is largely in your own head. Largely. Plan long-term strategies, and remember that they will have to be flexible. Burning off energy with some friends will help you from being a pain to your colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Do your best work and let it speak for itself. You don't need to prove anything, especially to family members. When those nagging voices fill your brain, identify where they come from and you can get rid of them.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Even if things have been going well lately, be very careful with your money. A deal that sounds too good to be true is. Set aside a little for an impulsive indulgence. If you can't say anything nice, go chat with Virgo.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Check out an art show with something very new and different, or rent the most outré movie you can find. It could inspire a new look, but test it with a very trusted friend before you take it public!

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Be careful that the only secrets you reveal are your own. Even then the deep personal insights you're gaining should be kept private. Well, mostly. You may find earning power in skills you haven't appreciated.

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I love it when young cute boys have bad attitudes. It makes me so glad I date people closer to my age.

My friend left his computer on at my house and now owns 7 birdhouses and is in a relationship with 11 guys on Match.com.

I freaking LOVE all the big bold no-holds-barred drag queens in this city!! Keep up the good work girls!

Marcus Bachman must be devastated that Michelle has suspended her campaign. His options now are to go home and never be a first lady, or get a sex change, get Romney to leave his wife, and become his lover. We are rooting for you Marcus, you big ol' queen!

Blacking out is just your brain clearing its browser history.

To the wanna-be cockblockers in the strip clubs: I go to meet the dancers, not your over-the-hill boyfriend. Get real.

Shocking. You got in another fight, at the same bar, at the same weekly karaoke night? Did you get 86'd this time?

Whoa! Thank you warning label! I was actually considering using my new floor lamp in the shower.

It's freaking amazing how the guys that wouldn't give me time of day a few years ago are flocking all over me now that I am in shape. Guess what, I wouldn't touch your dirty whore asses with a box of Lysol and a hazmat suit.

Is it true that most T-girls are tops? That's what I keep hearing on the grapevine.

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New Years Resolution: Get Andy Cohen to recast all of the Real Housewives of Atlanta.

Hey congrats David magazine, for showing all of us! Judging by other magazines in this city, you'd think gay Atlanta was all fashion-obsessed white dudes!

Honey, that faux-hawk is soooo 2002.

Simple but true, if you wanna talk shit about me, say it to my face coward.

To my boss: I found the gay porn on your computer, took a photo, and sent it to your wife. Oh also, I quit.

People love to hide behind their computers and cell phones. Then they wonder why they are alone and socially awkward. Have a conversation with people… the kind that are in person!!

I am so sad One Life to Live ended this week. The gays should create a new daytime soap opera to replace it.

Really? How hard is it to respect my gender? It's HE. Not she-he, not she, not it. Just because I grew up as a different gender doesn't change who I am now. Do I call you're straight just because you weren't openly gay at birth? Get with this millenium! And ps, what's in my underwear is none of your business. Unless it's you.

You try to down me for how I acted and looked back in 2006… now in 2012 I've grown into my looks, have a silken body, my own business, own my car, and closing on a home. Where are you renting? What are you leasing?

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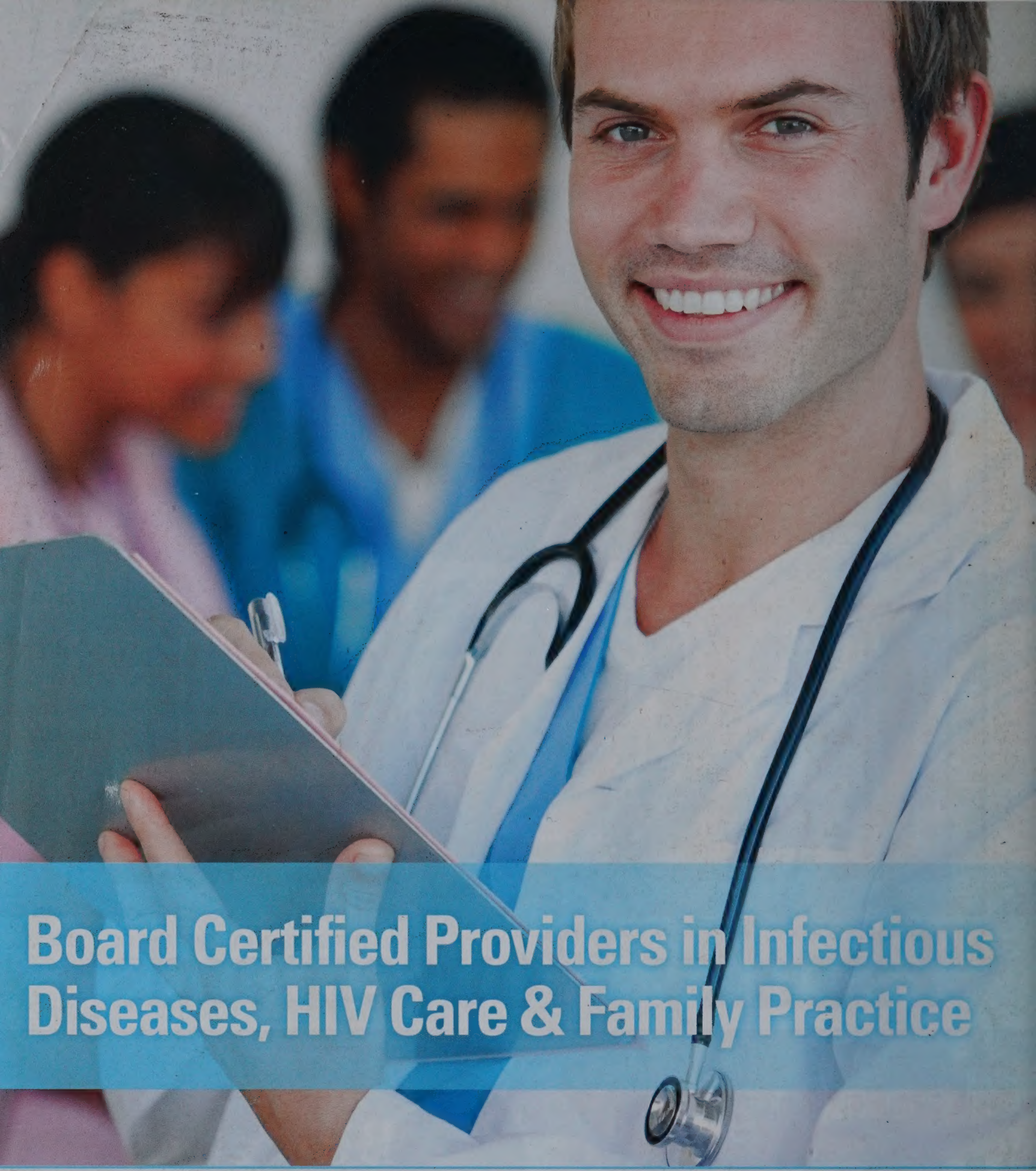
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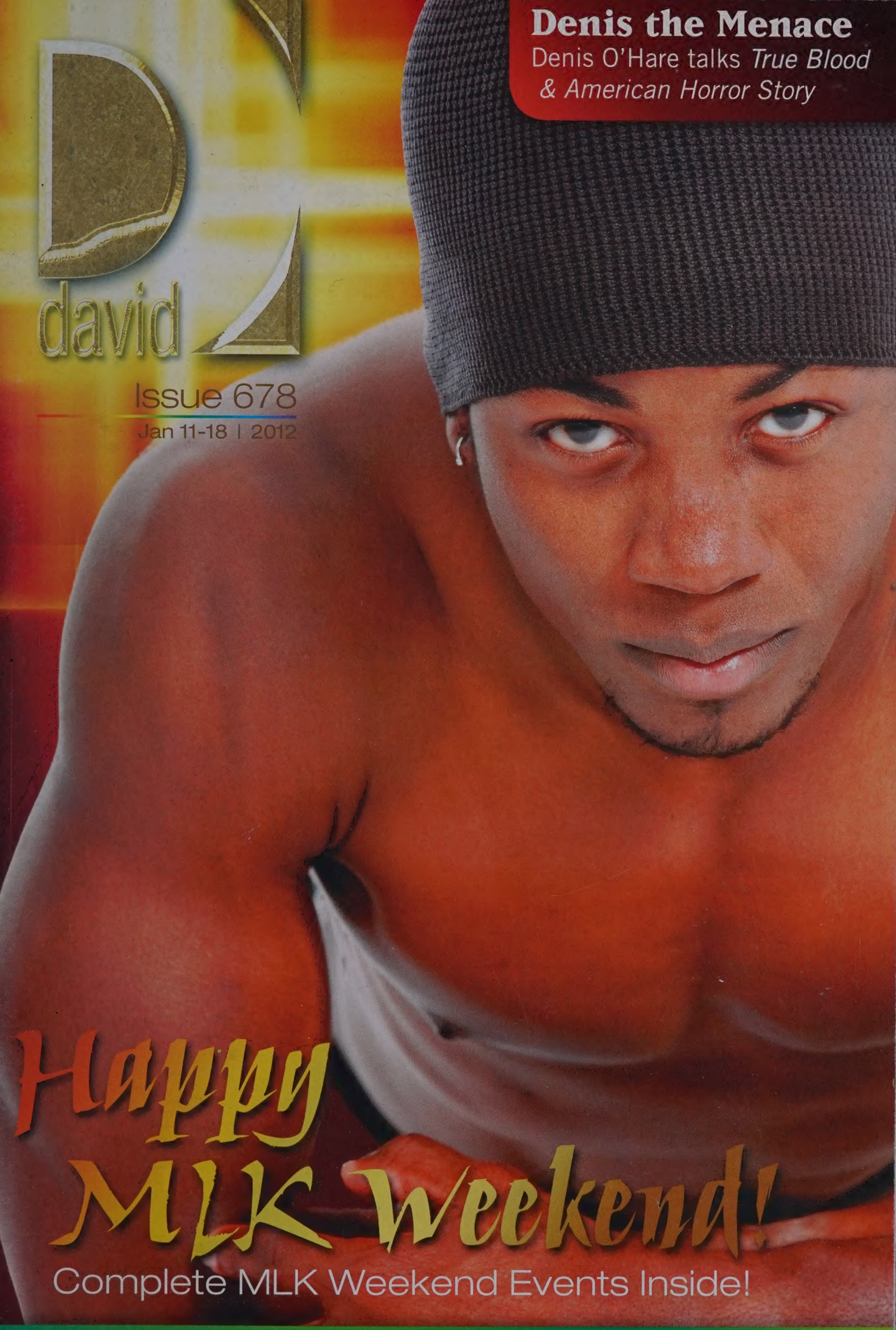
Issue 678

Jan 11-18 | 2012

Denis the Menace

Denis O'Hare talks *True Blood* & *American Horror Story*



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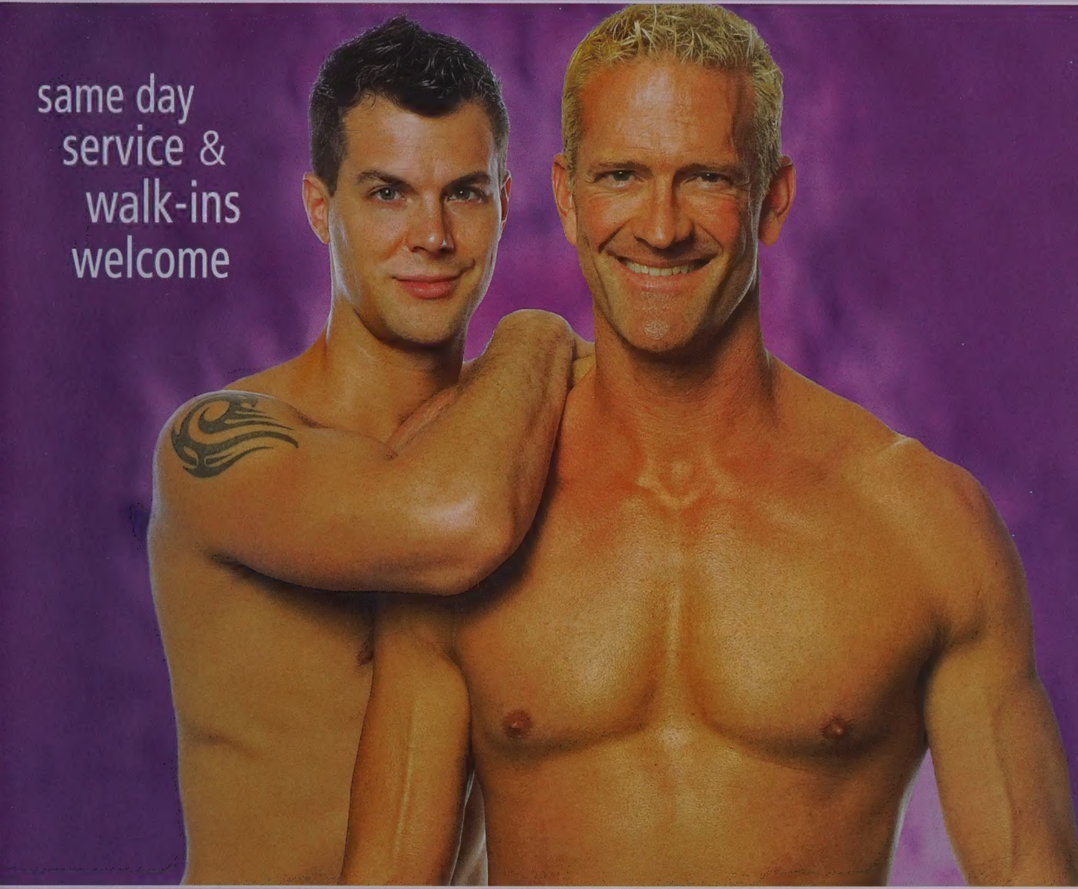

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Issue 678 | Jan 11-18, 2012

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5 People to Avoid Inviting to Parties

by Lucas Witherspoon

1. The Party Virgin

Is there anything worse than a person who doesn't know how to hold their alcohol? It's one thing to take your party virgin friend out to a bar or club where the owners kind of expect they'll have to deal with people occasionally getting messy and vomiting on the floor, but when it's at someone's house or a venue they've paid to rent, it's entirely different. You've either got to learn self-control so that you don't get to a point where you'll act a fool, or how to manage your booze.

2. "That Girl/Guy"

"That girl/guy" refers to that person that always makes a complete ass of themselves in public once they've had a few too many. They're generally seen sobbing uncontrollably while hugging everyone in sight, hanging onto them and proclaiming, "I love you soooooo much." Okay, girl, we get it. Now let's get you home.

3. The Bait & Switch-er

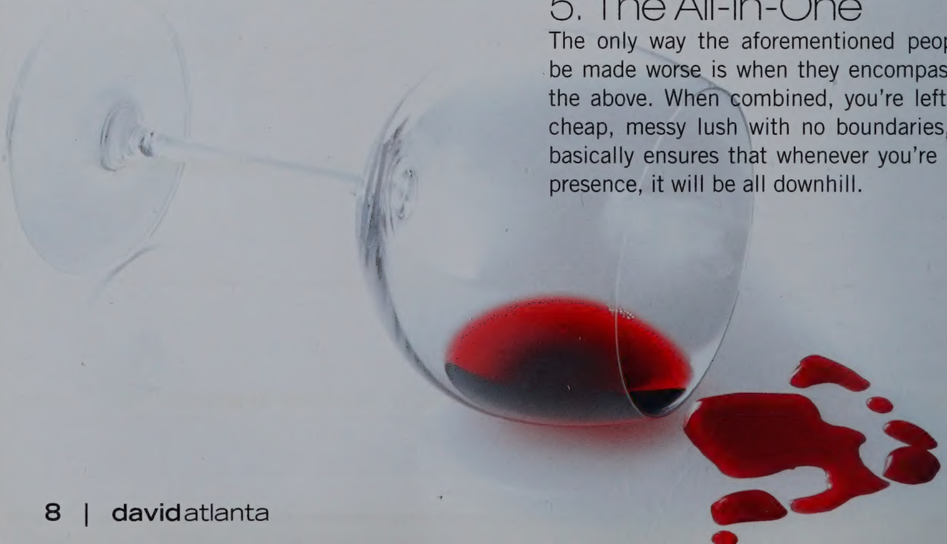
I've only ever encountered these people at BYOB parties, but they're the people who, once they've got the bait (an invite), don't hesitate to initiate the switch, meaning they'll bring a cheap bottle of booze so as to technically be contributing, but bypass their own alcohol for the higher-shelf stuff. In business, baiting and switching is illegal. No one's going to arrest you for mooching off of others' booze, but it's in bad taste, and will definitely ensure your blacklisted from future parties.

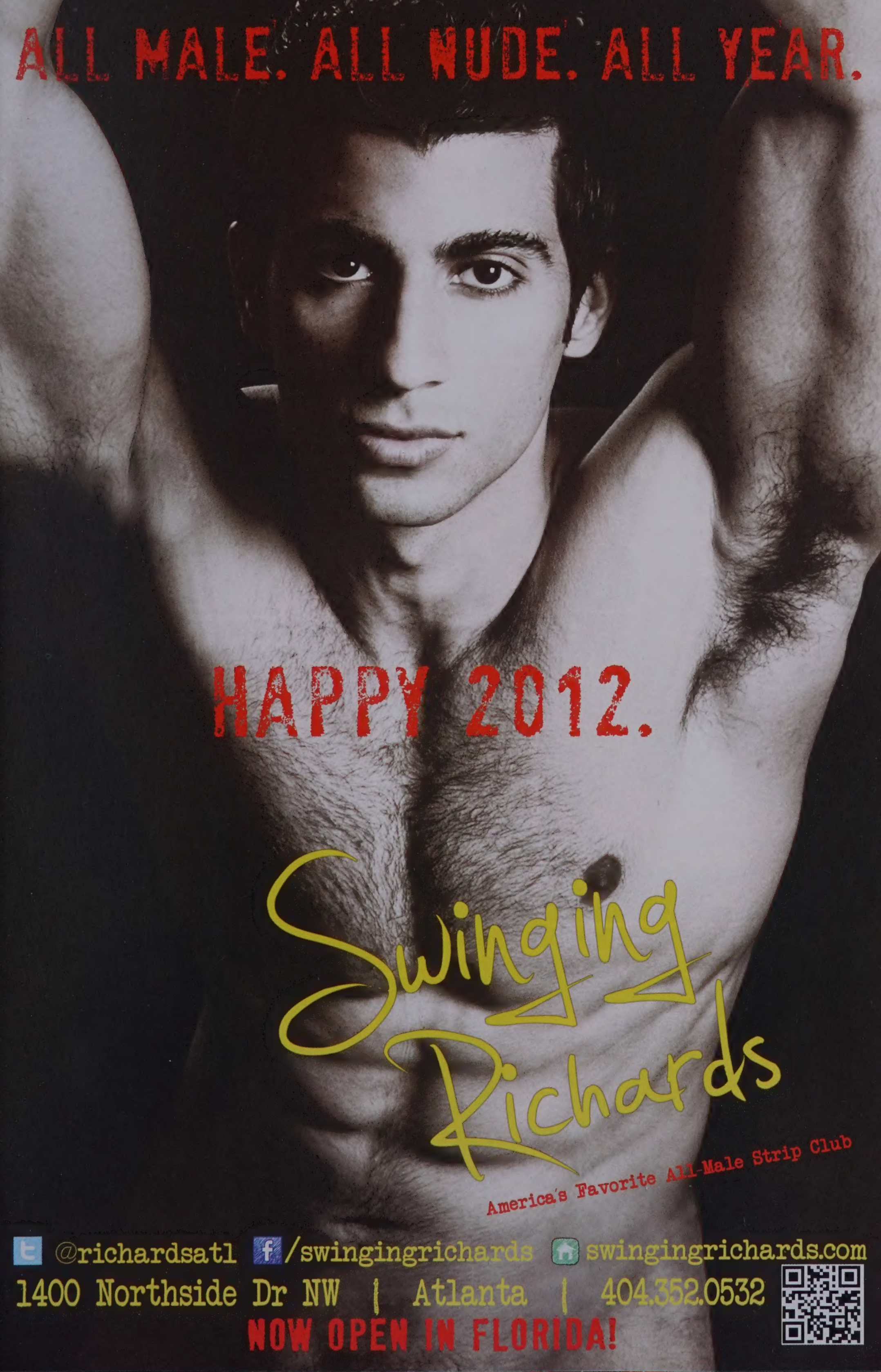
4. The Creeper

By now, we all are familiar with the mating habits of the creeper... and by "mating habits," I mean their inability to have a conversation without making it extremely socially awkward. Whether it's cheesy pick-up lines or their seeming lack of boundaries, the creeper will manage to do just that: creep you the fuck out. Somehow, though, no matter how many times they've been shot down, they persevere, which would be admirable if they weren't so skeevy.

5. The All-in-One

The only way the aforementioned people can be made worse is when they encompass all of the above. When combined, you're left with a cheap, messy lush with no boundaries, which basically ensures that whenever you're in their presence, it will be all downhill.

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Dating Resolutions

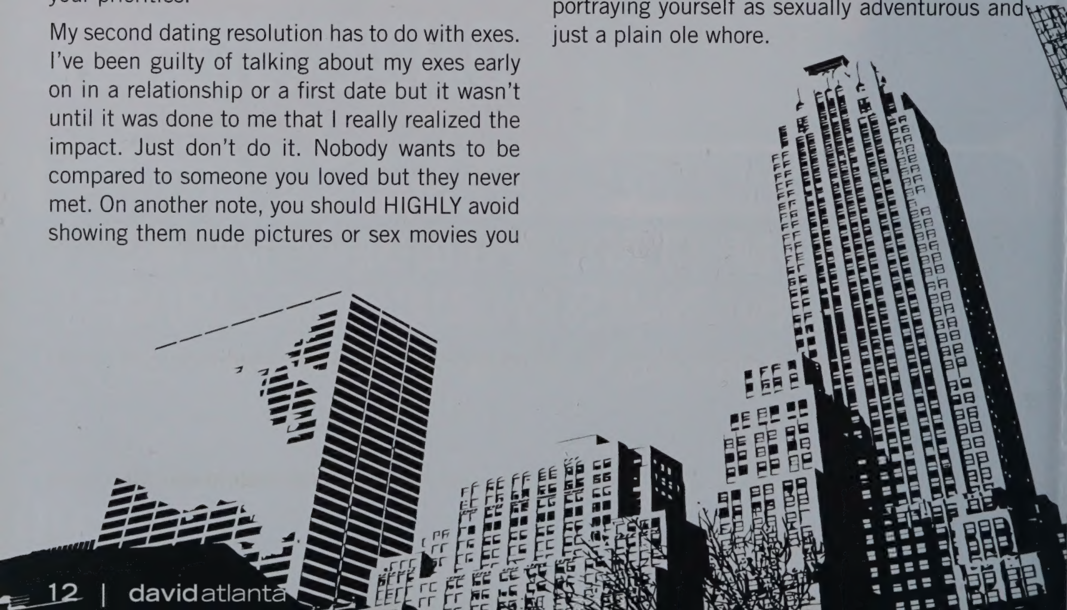
by Tristan Timothy

Everyone is talking about resolutions. By now it's mostly the ones they made and weren't able to keep. While quitting smoking, or working out more are great resolutions, I've decided to compile a few resolutions you should make in your dating life.

Firstly if you find yourself single, maybe it's time to readjust your preferences. I have a friend who rarely dates and the reason behind this is mainly because he's just too picky. He's a good looking kid but not a ten and he has a serious aversion to anyone who might have 5 extra pounds on them. I would almost find this understandable if he spent all his free time in the gym, but he doesn't. Sometimes it's just good to readjust your priorities.

My second dating resolution has to do with exes. I've been guilty of talking about my exes early on in a relationship or a first date but it wasn't until it was done to me that I really realized the impact. Just don't do it. Nobody wants to be compared to someone you loved but they never met. On another note, you should HIGHLY avoid showing them nude pictures or sex movies you guys made together. For me it's not even about measuring up to your ex, but how do I know how safe my nude pics are with you if you're showing me some other guys?

Finally my last dating resolution fit's into the previous one. Maybe you don't have an ex to talk about and are searching for an exciting topic and decide to tell sex stories. Mistake. While this usually starts out fun, "I had sex in the milk fridge at Kroger…" it can lead into some dicey territory. I've been on dates where I tell a "crazy sex story" that they recognized from his roommate. Needless to say we didn't make it to a second date. There is a thin line between portraying yourself as sexually adventurous and just a plain ole whore.



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WTF!?!? Tidbits

Ron Paul
REVOLUTION
LOVE

Kelly Clarkson has publicly endorsed presidential candidate Ron Paul, seemingly without actually bothering to research him. She tweeted: "I liked him a lot during the last Republican nomination and no one gave him a chance. If he wins the nomination for the Republican party in 2012 he's got my vote. Too bad he probably won't." Immediately, she received tweets pointing out that Ron Paul has held some questionable positions concerning African-Americans and gays, to which Kelly responded, "I have never seen or heard Ron Paul say anything against gay people? [...] I love all people and could care less if you love a man or a woman. I have never heard that Ron Paul is a racist or a homophobe? [...] I have never heard that he's a racist? That's ignorant." I think it's a bit more ignorant to blindly support a presidential candidate when you barely know anything about them, but that's just me.

In what came as a surprise to no one, Katy Perry and her husband of 14 months, Russell Brand, have decided to divorce. Russell was allegedly asked to file by Katy "since she was raised to believe divorce is wrong." That's right, folks, Jesus totally approves of shooting icing from your tits, but divorce? Definite no-no.

My all-time favorite cougar, Ellen Barkin, took to Twitter to allege that an NYPD officer roughed her up. After coming to the defense of an Occupy Wall Street protestor who was, according to Ellen, unfairly arrested, she accused a cop of shoving her onto the sidewalk, to which she riposted, "Get your motherfucking hands off me!" Her current boyfriend, director Sam Levinson, caught the incident on film and, to me, it looked like the cop did kind of push her, but I was more amazed that when he so much as looked at her, he didn't turn to stone. Ellen's a straight-up bitch that wouldn't bat an eye at slashing someone with $100 bills (she got $40 million in her divorce from her second husband).

Lady Gaga was snapped cuddling up to Vampire Diaries hottie, Taylor Kinnie, which just goes to show that no matter how many pounds of rubbish she wears or how many cryptically nonsensical statements she makes that are misinterpreted as philosophical, she still has a vagina, and that vagina needs to be fucked by a hot piece.

by Lucas Witherspoon

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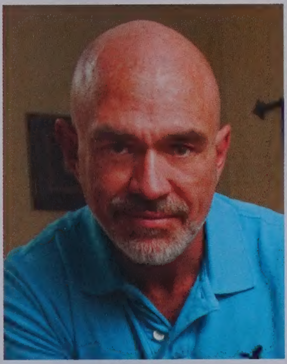
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The Brent Star Report

Last Gay Men Standing

We can handle not eating at Chick-Fil-A, we can "dislike" Rick Perry's ridiculous campaign video on YouTube, we can throw Michele Bachmann over a bridge, but how can we in this new year continue to ignore the growing tumbleweed that's sweeping across the ATL's 'gay scene'? I'm sorry, but Midtown is losing business and slowly losing its identity! Am I the only one noticing that the only time when we really see all of us is during the Pride parades? But the minute it's over, we run back inside our shells.

If we don't get over our differences and support each other, we'll be doomed to loose even more businesses this year. We can't let those homophobic whores win by watching us shrink into a forgettable state of oblivion!

Another scary thing I've noticed is how so many of us are marching back into the closet. Gay used to mean HAPPY, now it seems to be something to be "ashamed of". What happened to the brave warriors of our community who had NO PROBLEM with expressing themselves? Where ARE those expressive leather men or androgynous cross dressers who did it for themselves and each other, and not just for a show... where are you?

What I'm saying is too many of us have become too afraid to express ourselves to the point of dangerously blending in with the rest of the cookie cutters. Snap out of that spell and be you! Yeah, I know every gay guy isn't meant to sashay, so I'm talking to those brave and bold gay MEN who genuinely WANT to snap, walk, dress, speak, shop, live and breath the way you truly are and NOT how the world tell you how you're SUPPOSED to be.

This is a brand new year, we're back at square zero. It's up to us to make the scene HAPPEN again...it's up to YOU. Start your engines...and don't fuck it up!

UNTIL next week, DON'T read the girls, instead read The Brent Star Report!

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"Change"

by Joseph Brownell

I love the idea of a New Year. It's like someone took the Etch-a-Sketch from your hands, gave it a huge shake, wiping the screen clear, and then handed it back to you. There's something promising about the ability to say, "well this year is going to be better." We've all pondered resolutions (and maybe even broken a few already); I can't help but contemplate the age old question- can people truly change?

There are many layers to this discussion. First, I think we are constantly being changed, even in tiny ways, by our everyday experiences but it's not those micro changes I'm referring to. Can a racist become tolerant? Can someone who's always believed homosexuality is a sinful choice become an advocate for gay marriage? Call me an optimist but I believe this is possible because if people don't change then the concepts of forgiveness and redemption are absolute rubbish.

Whether it's a great novel, television show or movie, audiences always root for the change in the protagonist. Maybe it's because we truly want the character to experience the epiphany or maybe it's because we long for something that seems so distant in ourselves. I think that change- any change- big or small, is possible but it's often those closest in our lives that prevent the full transformation.

After spending part of the holidays with my mother, I saw the decade-old images I've clung so tightly to as reasons to why I don't visit more start to crumble. Sure there were times in the past that I wish she hadn't acted a certain way, but those perceptions no longer matched the woman I was spending time with. She had in fact changed but my refusal to see it because I was so accustomed to the person I still believed her to be prevented me from fully experiencing it. My mother's changed; it's time for me to.

Change doesn't happen overnight. Look around you and see who's truly trying to change and how you might be impeding that change; sometimes a little empathy and a little faith goes a long way.

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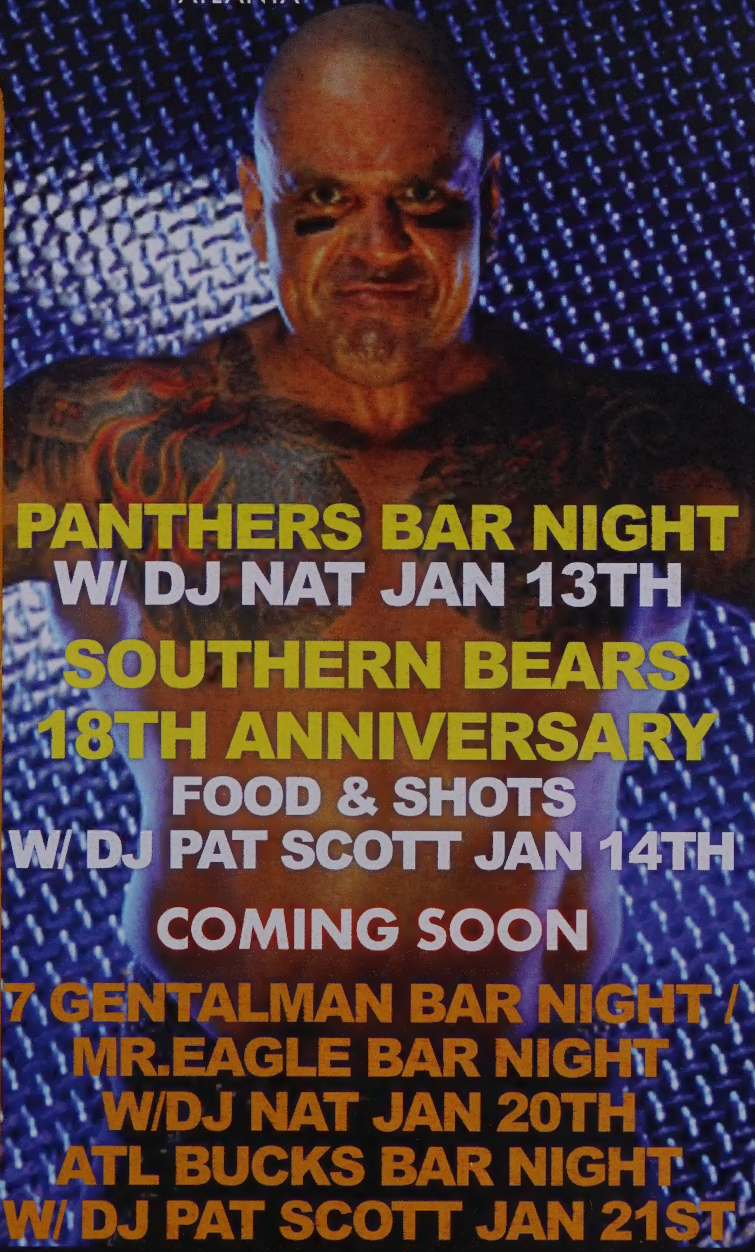

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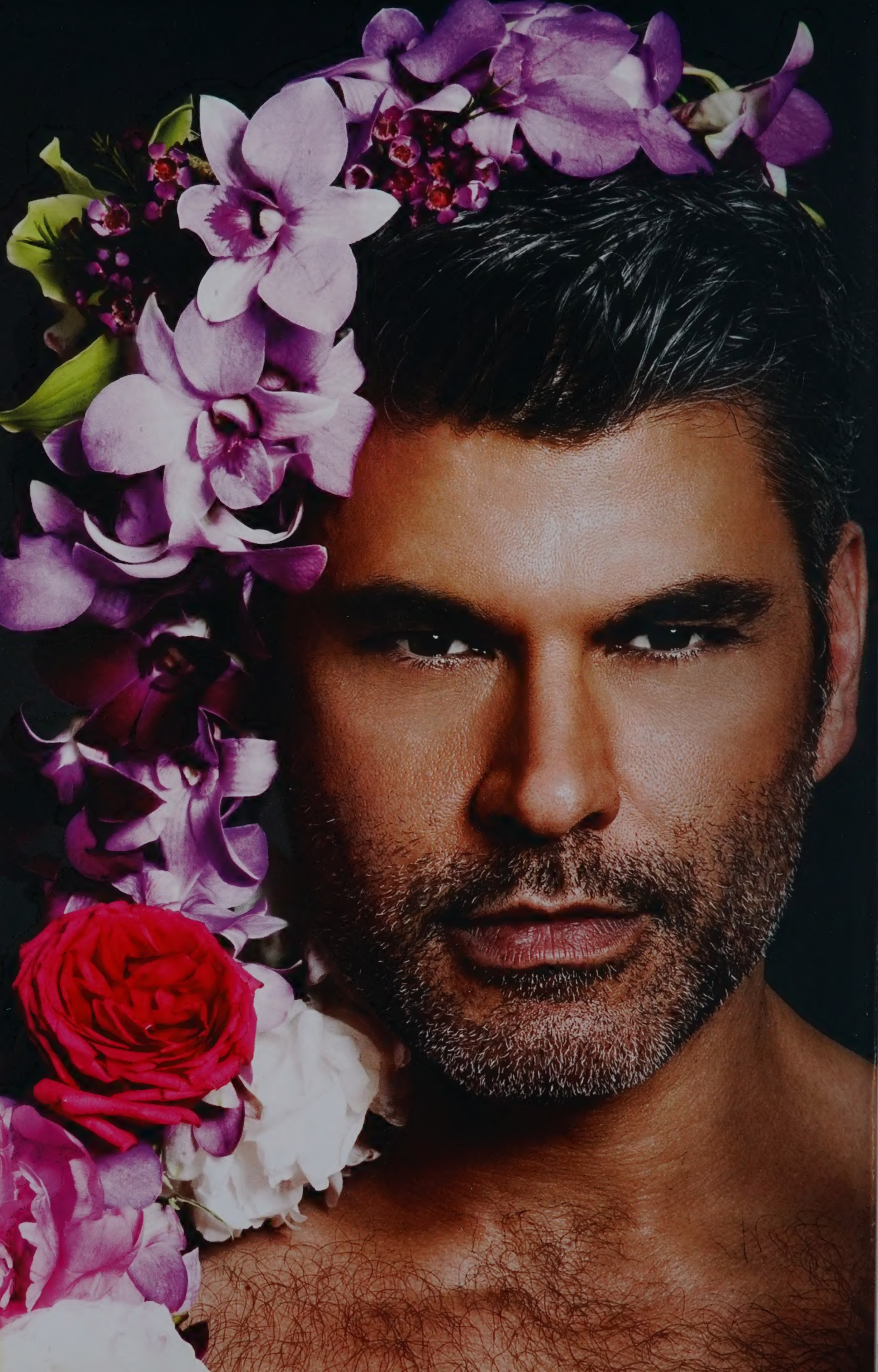


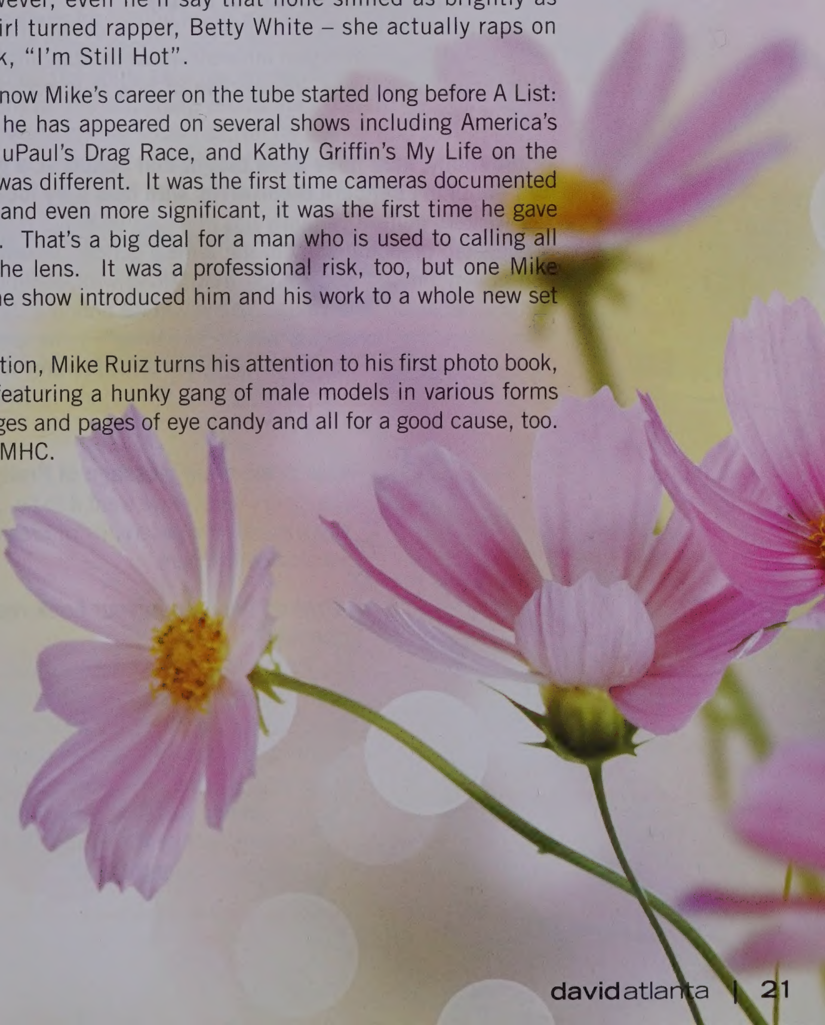
Mike Ruiz Is *Pretty* Masculine

By Troy Ordami

Few do cool as hot as high-octane celebrity-fashion photographer and star of A List: New York, Mike Ruiz. With a unique approach to the exploration of visceral brilliance, his finely crafted celebrity images have appeared in Vanity Fair, Italian Elle, and Spanish Vogue. He has shot some of the hottest in Hollywood from Kim Kardashian to Adam Lambert and the girls of Jersey Shore. However, even he'll say that none shined as brightly as beloved Golden Girl turned rapper, Betty White – she actually raps on the new club track, "I'm Still Hot".

Savvy reality fans know Mike's career on the tube started long before A List: New York. In fact, he has appeared on several shows including America's Next Top Model, RuPaul's Drag Race, and Kathy Griffin's My Life on the D-List. But A List was different. It was the first time cameras documented Mike's every move and even more significant, it was the first time he gave up creative control. That's a big deal for a man who is used to calling all the shots behind the lens. It was a professional risk, too, but one Mike doesn't regret as the show introduced him and his work to a whole new set of adoring fans.

In his latest production, Mike Ruiz turns his attention to his first photo book, Pretty Masculine, featuring a hunky gang of male models in various forms of undress. It's pages and pages of eye candy and all for a good cause, too. Proceeds benefit GMHC.



How do you define beauty?

Beauty is very individual and personal. However, I consider beauty to be represented in everything that denotes balance in our world and is in harmony with our environment. True beauty gratifies the senses, which in my case, inspires me to delve deeper into my creative psyche.

Isn't masculinity the opposite of beauty?

The opposite of beauty is ugliness. So, to define masculinity as ugly is nothing but a limitation and inherent misunderstanding of what masculinity represents. Masculinity, irrespective of how it is portrayed, is yet another facet of beauty.

Traditionally, men have been taught that beauty is a girl thing and that they shouldn't concern themselves with how they look.

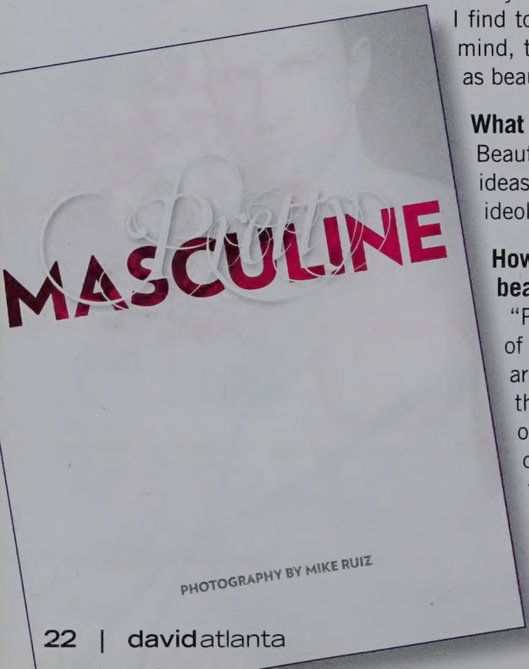
Yes, western culture certainly has imposed its belief that the idea of beauty is relegated predominantly to the female gender. However, this preconception is very limited and I hope that, along with continued changes in our cultural behaviors and values, so too will we notice a shift in accepting that beauty is not "a girl thing". I, for one, extrapolate what I find to be beautiful and interpret it accordingly. In my mind, there are no limitations to what is to be deemed as beautiful.

What is the main message of Pretty Masculine?

Beauty is whatever we want it to be. Just be open to new ideas and to the possibility of breaking down inflexible ideological barriers.

How do the men in your book represent male beauty?

"Pretty Masculine" depicts just one of many facets of beauty. In this case, the subjects in my book are simply a study of male muscularity—captured through hyper-stylized imagery. The juxtaposition of accessories and materials commonly depicted in our society as being inherently feminine is meant to demonstrate that beauty is all-inclusive and not meant to be segregated.



Are they the male equivalent to a Barbie doll? Are they placing the beauty bar for men at an impossibly high mark?
There isn't or at least there shouldn't be any bar to define male beauty. Moreover, it is important to remember that the models in my book are real people. They come from many different walks of life and have many different interests and are of many different persuasions. They are all beautiful individuals with equally beautiful souls. To objectify, plasticize or minimize them by comparing them to Barbie dolls would be nothing more than a perpetuation of short-sighted stereotypical limitations.

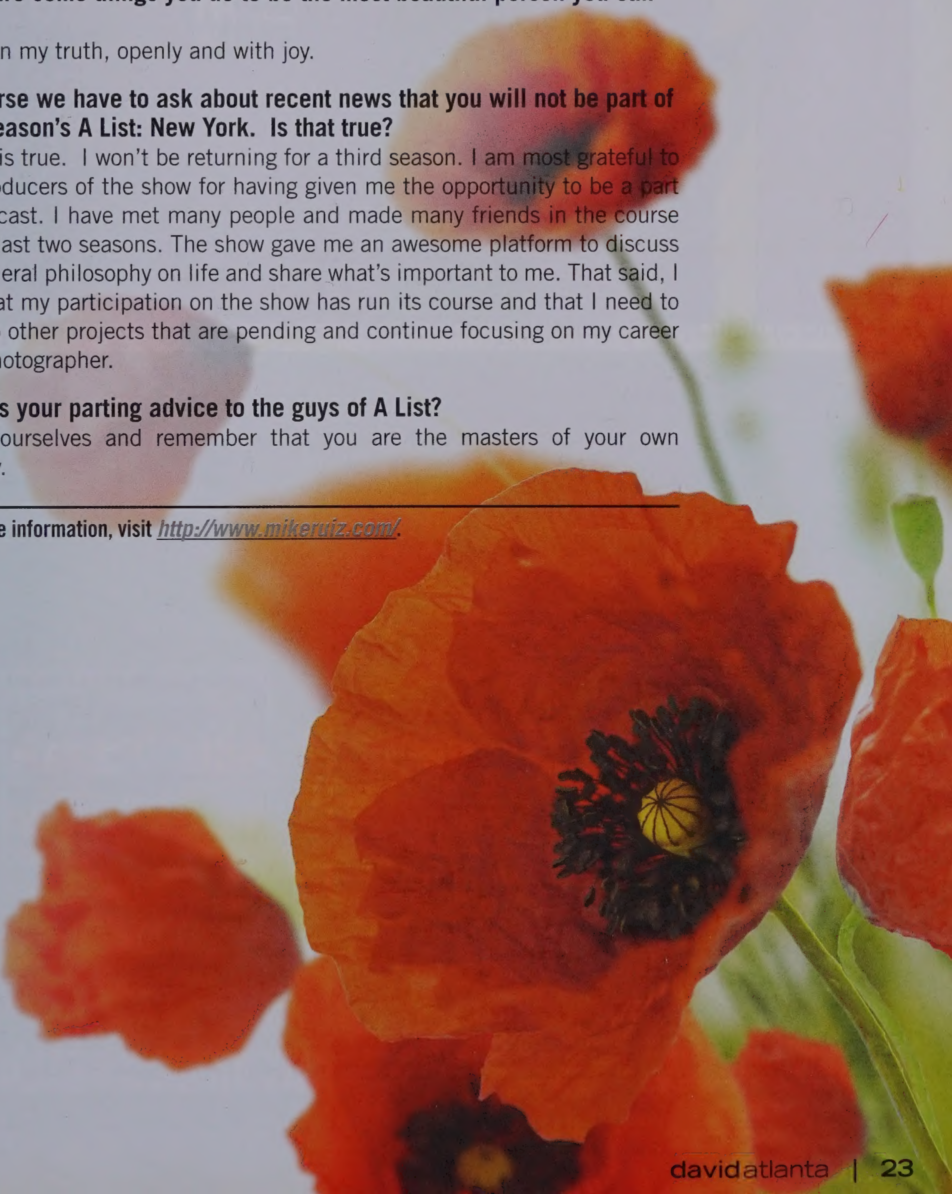
Isn't true beauty really on the inside?
If you look closely enough, you'll realize that beauty is all around us—inside, outside and everywhere in between.

What are some things you do to be the most beautiful person you can be?
I live in my truth, openly and with joy.

Of course we have to ask about recent news that you will not be part of next season's A List: New York. Is that true?
Yes, it is true. I won't be returning for a third season. I am most grateful to the producers of the show for having given me the opportunity to be a part of the cast. I have met many people and made many friends in the course of the last two seasons. The show gave me an awesome platform to discuss my general philosophy on life and share what's important to me. That said, I feel that my participation on the show has run its course and that I need to tend to other projects that are pending and continue focusing on my career as a photographer.

What is your parting advice to the guys of A List?
Love yourselves and remember that you are the masters of your own destiny.

For more information, visit http://www.mikeruiz.com/.



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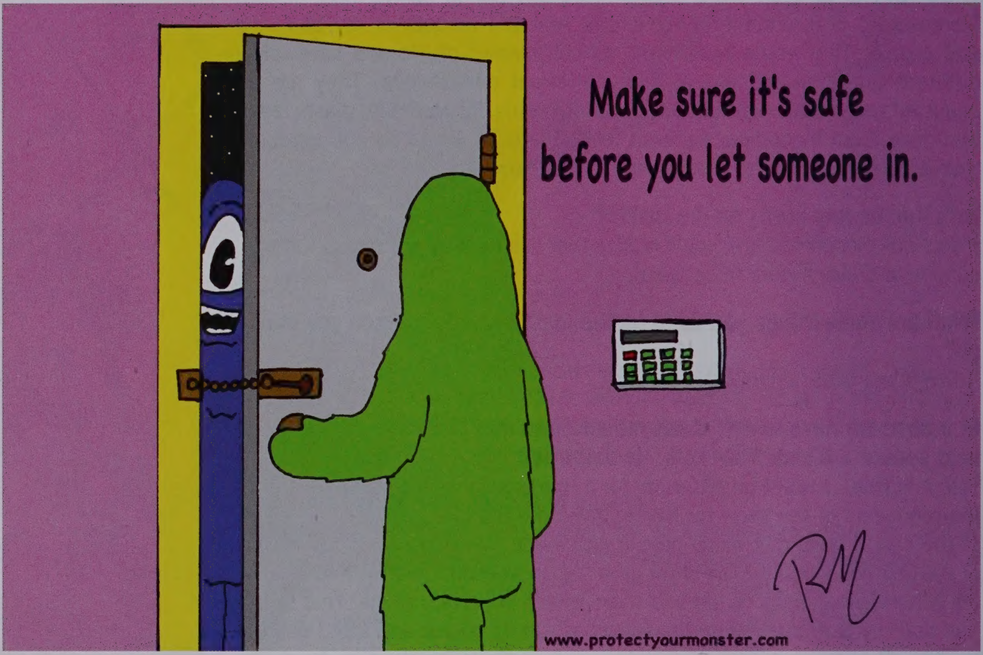
by Richard Marshall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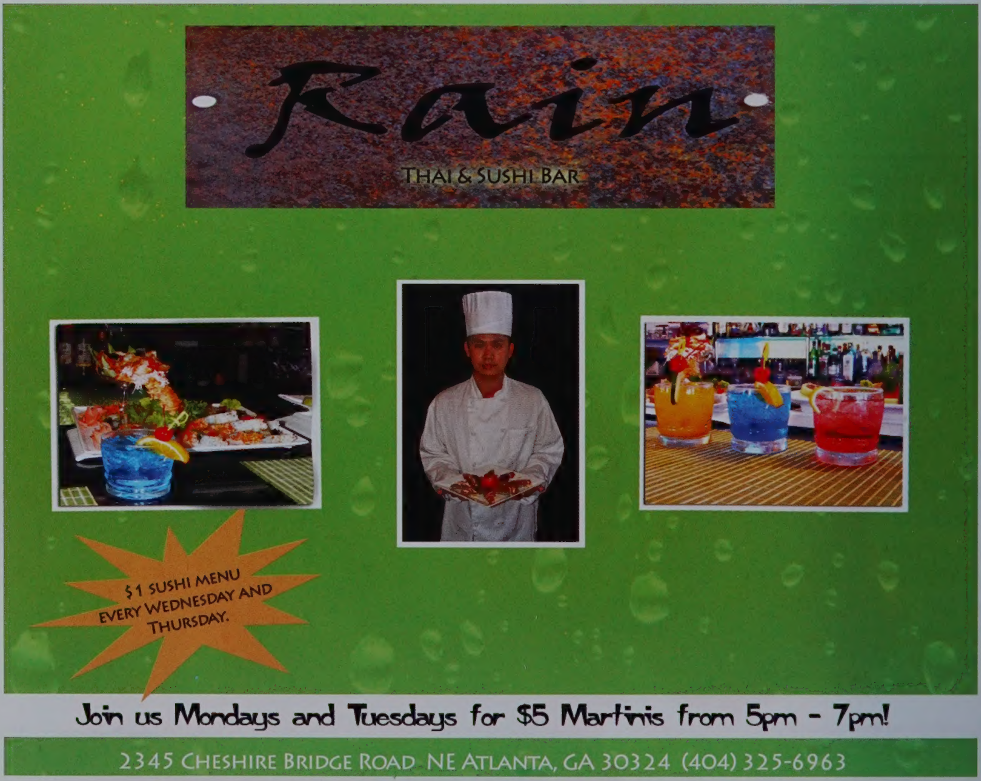
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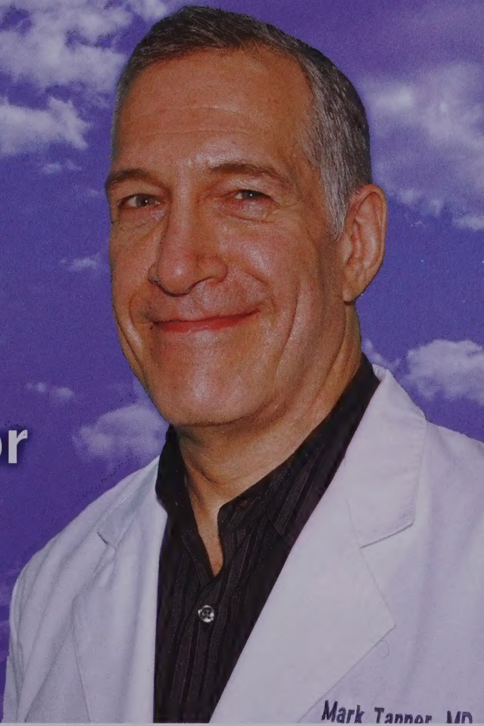

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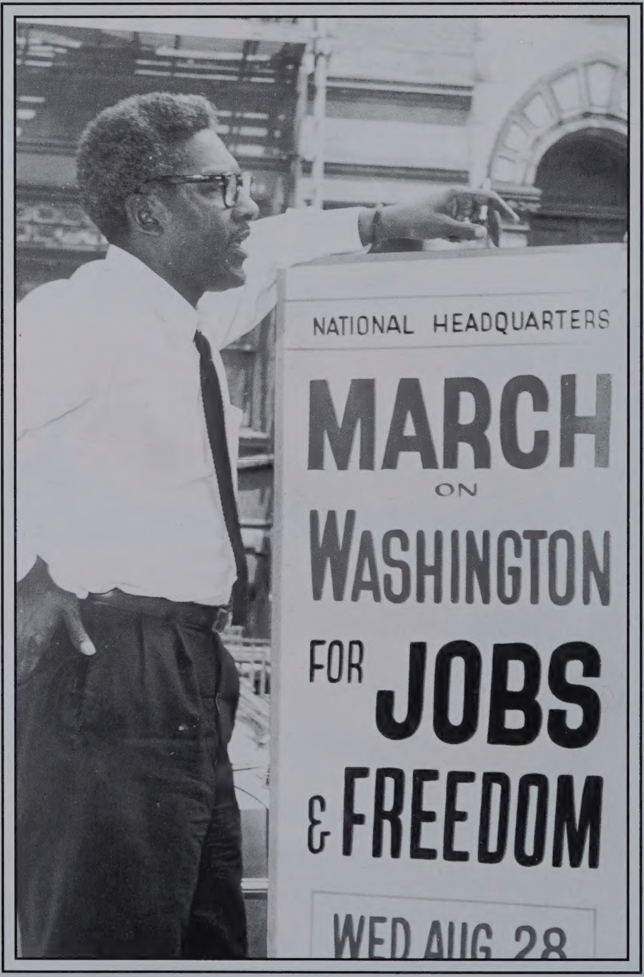
Atlanta celebrates 11th Annual Bayard Rustin / Audre Lorde Breakfast

by Stasha Oakley

January 16th marks the eleventh annual Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Breakfast, a gathering of local community members to honor civil rights leader Bayard Rustin and activist-writer Audre Lorde. The event's official Facebook page describes the breakfast as "Food, Fun, Fierceness" and brings together fun and fierce activists, scholars, LGBTQ community members and allies to gather and connect before the annual Martin Luther King Jr. march.

The Rustin/Lorde Breakfast offers a free meal with group conversations, poetry readings, panel discussions, community building and education. Discussions encourage and motivate attendees to continue participating in local, national and global social justice throughout the year.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WED AUG 28

Activist Bayard Rustin

In 2002 founders Craig Washington and Darlene Hudson started the breakfast after organizing together at a local gay and lesbian center. The center was located near the beginning of the MLK Jr. march and they saw this as an opportunity for fellow LGBTQ organizers and community members to meet and break bread before marching. Inspired by the rallies held in the honor of Bayard Rustin, organizers sought to honor Rustin in a more comfortable, indoor environment.

Originally called just the Bayard Rustin Breakfast, organizers included Audre Lorde as an honored ancestor in 2008. The first breakfast had around 40 guests who gathered to watch and discuss the Bayard Rustin documentary *Brother Outsider*.

Bayard Rustin was a civil rights activist who organized the first Freedom Ride, the 1963 march on Washington for jobs

> "When I dare to be **powerful** — to use my strength in the service of my vision — then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."
> – Audre Lorde

and freedom, the 1964 New York school boycott, and more. He worked with Mohandas Gandhi in India and brought the idea of non-violent resistance back to the United States. He acted as a mentor and advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., especially on issues of pacifism. King and Rustin together organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Despite the slander, discrimination and even arrest that his sexuality caused, he remained an out gay man until his death during a humanitarian mission in Haiti in 1987.

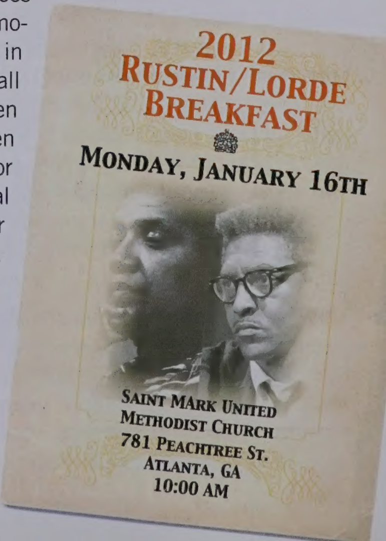
Poet Audre Lorde

Caribbean-American poet, writer and activist Audre Lorde challenged contemporary feminist thought and fought for acknowledgement of class, race, sexuality, gender, age and health-related oppressions. Works include The Black Unicorn and The Marvelous Arithmetics of Distance. Lorde fought cancer for 14 years and documented her struggles, as well as the importance of community during sickness, in The Cancer Journals. She passed away of liver cancer in 1992 but said, "What I leave behind has a life of its own."

While both Rustin and Lorde have passed away, their legacy continues in the LGBTQ community, including Atlanta. March 17, 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of Bayard Rustin's birthday and the breakfast is one of many events honoring his life and work. According to According to Mandy Carter, National Coordinator of the Bayard Rustin Centennial Project within the National Black Justice Coalition, Rustin's enormous contributions to the Civil Rights Movement will be recognized in events throughout the country during 2012.

Lorde's biomythography *ZAMI: A New Spelling of My Name* is honored in name by Atlanta not-for-profit collective ZAMI-NOBLA (National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging) that "empowers and affirms the lives of lesbians of African descent." ZAMI is one of many community sponsors of the Rustin/Lorde Breakfast.

Recent years have seen more than 200 guests in attendance. Elders and youth alike join to commemorate black gay leaders and unsung heroes of social justice movements throughout history, although recently the breakfast has narrowed its focus toward current freedom struggles. In last year's opening speech Craig Washington called upon attendees to commemorate activists in the Stonewall Riots, Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, local transgender organizers, the Combahee River Collective, and more.


2012
RUSTIN/LORDE
BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH

SAINT MARK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
781 PEACHTREE ST.
ATLANTA, GA
10:00 AM

In the spirit of Bayard Rustin and Audre Lord, organizers invite a diverse array of groups and speakers that fall under the progressive umbrella. This is a point of pride for co-founder Washington who emphasized that attendance was diverse from the beginning. The growth in the number of guests brought more break-out groups and small table discussions so that a wide range of voices could be heard. "We weren't trying to have some traditional way that assumes the person on the podium is the only person whose knowledge is valued," says Washington.

Young people are especially encouraged to add their voices to the mix. The breakfast provides a unique multigenerational opportunity for LGBTQ youth and queer elders to meet and exchange ideas. Organizers seek to honor elders while placing value on the current contributions of young people in social justice movements. "The generational exchange is not one sided," explains Washington, "I've always pushed myself to be open and to invite younger people to continue to teach me."

In last year's breakfast, themed "Resilience," panelists led group discussions on what resilience means to social justice movements and guests shared experiences on their own personal resilience and strengths. Other discussion and panel topics have included HIV prevention justice, anti-bullying legislation, gender justice, and local advocacy engagement. Guests also hear stories of LGBTQ community organizing in the 1980s and 1990s from veteran Black gay and lesbian activists.

This year's theme "Setting the Agenda" gives guests the opportunity to network and discuss an overall sense of direction in social justice. While each guest and community group is unique, organizers hope to bridge gaps, vocalize common goals and support social justice groups that are out in the world working. "This event is an opportunity to talk about how we as individuals, groups and organizations can play a role in shaping our future," says co-founder Darlene Hudson in the event's official press release. Although panelists could not be confirmed as of publication, Hudson's co-organizer Craig Washington is particularly excited about the upcoming event.

Attendees praise the breakfast for fostering a nurturing sense of community. "It's a breakfast, not a conference," says Washington. Guests will definitely learn, engage in discussion and network with organizations, but most of all they will feel a sense of belonging. Guests to the 2012 breakfast are set to have fun, feel the impact of community and take that with them in their daily lives. Last year guests completed personal commitment forms to remind them of how they felt during the breakfast and to dedicate hours of service to community building organizations.

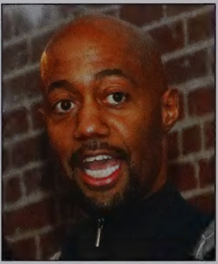


photo by ProjectQAtlanta.com

Craig Washington

Organizers of the MLK Jr. march have always supported LGBT voices in the event and encouraged the growing breakfast. With Atlanta being an historical landmark city in the Civil Rights Movement and recently voted "The Gayest City in America," the Rustin/Lorde Breakfast really celebrates Atlanta's unique culture.

This incredible event is a great way to gain motivation, strength, inspiration and positivity before the MLK Jr. march. Whether you're a seasoned veteran of progressive movements or simply found online articles on Rustin and Lorde to be compelling, organizers encourage everyone to experience the Rustin/Lorde Breakfast at least once.

This year's Rustin/Lorde Breakfast will be held at 10 AM on January 16, 2012 at the Saint Mark United Methodist Church, 781 Peachtree Street Atlanta, GA. The breakfast is free and open to everyone. Donations are encouraged. The Martin Luther King Jr. march will assemble at 1:15 PM.

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TUE — 1/2 PRICE APPETIZERS

"I'VE GOTTA SING"
AN EVENING OF KARAOKE @ 11PM
With Your Host Jerry... Featuring Karaoke Master DJ Bill Berdeaux

WED

FEATHERS & FLESH: A BURLESQUE REVUE @ 11PM

THU — $5.00 BURGERS ALL DAY

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER @ 7PM
THE SHAWNNA FACTOR @ 11PM
Starring SHAWNNA BROOKS, Nicole Paige Brooks, Lena Lust
Lady Shabazz, Phoenix and Regina Ryan

FRI

KITTY LeCLAW'S MEOW MIX @ 11PM

SAT

JEALOUSE'S DARING DIVAS @ 11PM
Starring JEALOUSE, Lady Shabazz, Lateascha Shante Shuntel
Shawnna Brooks, Lena Lust and Special Guests

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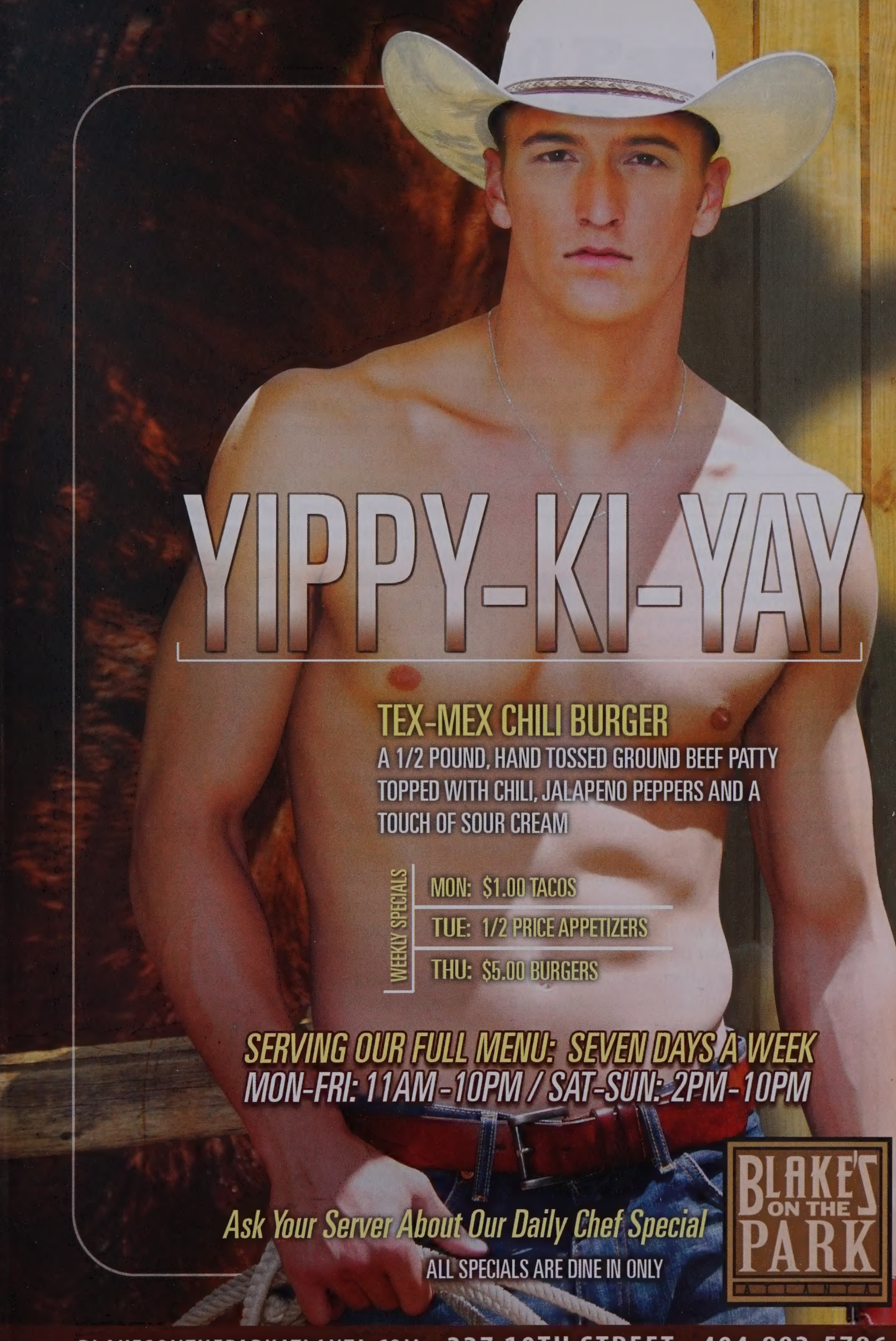

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WASSUPNATL presents

I AM KING Celebration

by Brent Star

I'm not going to sound like my boy, Wikipedia, and give you all the breakdowns on the importance of Martin Luther King, Jr., but I will remind you that a huge part of the brilliant legacy that he left behind for us is the freedom to become whomever you want to become today, be it a President of the United States or become a successful President of Godfathers Pizza like Herman Cain.

BARS

Bulldog's, 893 Peachtree St. Ne, 30308 • Mon-Sat 4pm-3am, mostly men, 404 872-3025, facebook.com/pages/Bulldogs-Bar-Atlanta

The Daiquiri Factory, 889 W. Peachtree St., 30309 • Mon-Sun 11pm-2:30am, women & men, 404-881-8188, facebook.com/pages/The-Daiquiri-Factory

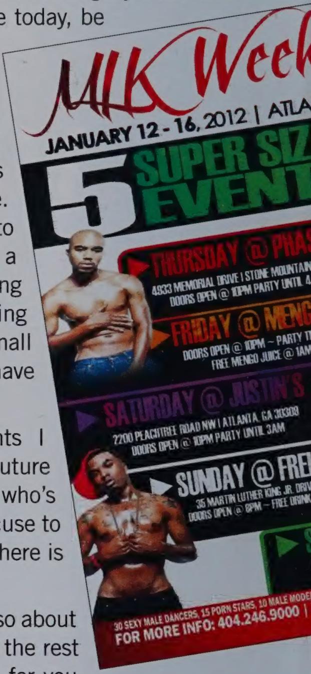
AFTER HOURS

Stall Afterhours @ Club 91, 91 Broad St Sw, 30303 • 3am-8am Fri-Sat-Sun nights, www.rtparties.com

But let me remind you my brothers and sisters (of all races) that sometimes 'freedom' isn't always free. It took decades to get to where we are today as a country, and of course, King played a key role in making sure it got done. Today, a small time writer like me STILL have a dream.

Aside for the bright lights I envision ahead for my future career, I dream that one day this country can stop making a big deal about who's sleeping with whom and stop wrongly USING God as their homophobia excuse to exercise hate crimes and bullying. I loved when King said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice EVERYWHERE!".

Ok, enough of me getting all serious, because like I said, this weekend is also about us celebrating who we are. Hell, you can fight for your freedom and rights the rest of the year! It's now time to party, and WASSUPNATL has it all lined up for you. Their founder, Mario Harris, said for 2012, they are calling it the "I AM KING CELEBRATION", which is "all about the attitude you should have about how you live your life. YOU are King of YOUR own world, whatever you are or whatever you're about".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DOORS OPEN @ 8PM ~ FREE DRINK
30 SEXY MALE DANCERS, 15 PORN STARS, 10 MALE MODE
FOR MORE INFO: 404.246.9000 |

WOMEN'S PARTIES

FRIDAY: The Ladies Lounge @ Glow, 3011 Buford Hwy, Atlanta • www.traxxgirls.com

SATURDAY: Secret Party @ Club Rain, 448 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW, Atlanta 30312 • Doors 10pm, www.traxxgirls.com

SUNDAY: Show Time @ Scores Sports Bar & Video Lounge, 2425 Wesley Chapel Rd • Variety Show, FREE parking, www.traxxgirls.com

SUNDAY: Ladies At Play MLK Winter Pride Gala @ The Venetian Room, 50 Hurt Plaza Atlanta, 30303 • 9pm-2:30am, $20, V103 DJ Cowboy & DJ Xzact, Dress Code: Red Carpet, coat check, VIP Tables & $15 Tix Online: Ladiesatplay.Com

He also said "This year we're offering NEW parties, NEW venues and experiences. This includes 30 male dancers, 15 porn stars, 10 male models, 5 djs, 4 emcees, 3 superstars, 2 legends, and 1 HUGE celebration". WASSUPNATL has always been pretty active in the party scene; in fact, they are celebrating their 10 year anniversary for this years' Labor Day. But for now, Mario says he looks forward to the 5000 Mega Men Party at Freight Depot on Sunday! DAMN, That's A LOT of MEN!!! Check out their official lineup for the I AM KING celebration weekend and don't forget to check out their website to find out how you can get a 5 day pass for only $50!

MLK Weekend Parties

d
EORGIA
550
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WY NE I ATLANTA, GA 30324
@ 10PM PARTY UNTIL 4AM
LEGENDS, 2 SUPER STARS & 1 BIG PARTY!
TL.COM | CLUBATL.COM

Wednesday | Jan 11

Raquell Lord's Main Event Talent Show, Sophia Mcintosh & The Fabulous 5+1 @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St, Atlanta, 30308 • Doors 8pm, 21+ $5, 18-20 $10, www.traxxatlanta.com

Thursday | Jan 12

MLK Weekend Kickoff @ The Gold Room, 2416 Piedmont Rd NE, Atlanta • 10pm-3am, 21+, 6 bars, the Men of RockStar, www.privileged1ent.com

I AM KING @ Phase One, 4933 Memorial Dr., Atlanta 30083 • 10pm-4am, www.wassupnatl.com

MLK Weekend Kick-Off: Turnt Up Thursday @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St, Atlanta, 30308 • No Cover! Doors 11pm, 18+, www.traxxatlanta.com

Friday | Jan 13

International Male Mixer @ Einsteins, 1077 Juniper St, Atlanta, 30309 • 6pm-10pm, www.thelionsdenatlanta.com

Welcome to The Atl: Southern Hospitality Mixer @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St, Atlanta, 30308 • No Cover! Doors 6pm, 21+, Drink, Dine, Dance. www.traxxatlanta.com

Boyz Gone Wild @ The Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Rd, 30324 • 10pm-3am, FREE B4 12am, www.thelionsdenatlanta.com

Trio @ Mengos, 91 Broad St NW, Atlanta, 30303 • 10pm-4am, FREE Mengo Juice @1am, www.wassupnatl.com

Saturday | Jan 14

Inferno Dominican Republic & House Of Chapple Model Search @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St, Atlanta, 30308 • No Cover! 6pm-9pm, Swimwear Fashion Show, $1,000 Model Search, BYO swimwear, www.traxxatlanta.com

Celebrity Night @ The Daiquiri Factory, 889 W. Peachtree St., 30309 • 8pm, with Maurice Jamal of GLO TV, cast of Noah's Arc & more, info 678-949-3372

Int'l Male @ Club 595 North, 595 North Ave. NW, 30324 • 10pm-3am, FREE B4 midnight, VIP Style, Swagga & Class www.rockstarsproduction.com

LIV @ Justins, 2200 Peachtree Rd, Atlanta, 30309 • 10pm-3am, www.wassupnatl.com

Man2Man MLK Weekend Bash @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St, Atlanta, 30308 • Doors 10pm, 21+, hookah, VIP Reservations: 904-200-5883, $1,000 Hot Body Contest with the Men Of Dark Centaur, www.traxxatlanta.com

The Movement: Remembering The King & Traxx Atlanta 25th Anniversary Party @ The Freight Depot, 1 MLK Jr Dr. SE, in Underground Atlanta • Doors 10pm, 18+, host Kimbella From Love & Hip Hop, King Weekend Jaycette Competition @ 8pm, www.traxxatlanta.com

Superman High @ Club 91, 91 Broad St Sw, 30303, 3am-8am afterparty, www.rtparties.com

Sunday | Jan 15

House of Ebony Mini Ball @ XS Ultra Lounge, 708 Spring St., Atlanta, 30308 • Doors 4pm, Ball 5pm sharp, The Face Diva hosts, www.xcessultralounge.com

I AM KING Celebration @ Freight Depot, 35 MLK Jr Dr., 30334 • Doors 8pm, $10 b4 10pm, FREE drinks til midnight, 30 sexy dancers, www.wassupnatl.com

International Male: The Main Event @ Club Europe, 4001 Presidential Pkwy, Atlanta, 30340 • 9pm-4am, host Kandi of Real Housewives of Atlanta, Xtreme All Male Review, www.thelionsdenatlanta.com

Wet In ATL Strip Club, 2241 Faulkner Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30324, off Cheshire Bridge Rd, 2nd bldg behind Jungle, at the end • 9pm-5am, info 404-590-8242, www.wetinatl.com

WassupNATL @ Chaparral, 2715 Buford Hwy, Atlanta, 30324 • 10pm-4am, www.wassupnatl.com

MLK Events

Thursday | Jan 12

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra: 20th Anniversary King Concert @ Atlanta Symphony Hall, 1280 Peachtree St. NE Atlanta, 30309 • 8pm, $55-125, with Yo-Yo Ma, Spelman College Glee Club, Morehouse College Glee Club, www.atlantasymphony.org

Friday | Jan 13

Public Enemy & Arrested Development @ The Atrium Complex, 5479 Memorial Dr., Stone Mountain, GA 30083 • also TrOyMaN, Lack of Flaws, DJ Eddie F., $45, atlantaMLKweekend2012.eventbrite.com

Saturday | Jan 14

The Legends of Hip Hop @ the Atrium Complex, 5479 Memorial Dr., Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083 • with Doug E. Fresh, Big Daddy Kane, Kid N Play, Slick Rick, Whodini, EPMD, $45, atlantaMLKweekend2012.eventbrite.com

Monday | Jan 16

11th Annual Bayard Rustin / Audre Lorde Breakfast @ Saint Mark United Methodist Church, 781 Peachtree St., Atlanta • 10am-1pm, FREE, everyone invited, www.facebook.com/RustinLordeBreakfast

Martin Luther King Jr. March & Rally, 1:30 p.m • Assemble at the East corner of Peachtree and Ellis St; Rally on Auburn Ave. in King National Park, www.MLKmarchaaar.org

NYE @ 5 Napkins

see more photos at
davidatlanta.com

¡Masturbador Masculino 3D!

por Luis Chiruco

De la empresa japonesa Tenga conocíamos el flip hole y los tenga egg, dos clásicos entre los masturbadores masculinos, que me he encontrado hasta en algún supermercado.

También sabíamos que desde la entrada de la firma nipona en nuestro país se habían propuesto revolucionar el mercado de los juguetes sexuales que hasta entonces parecía más destinado al público femenino.

Si no lo ha conseguido ya, están muy cerca de hacerlo, pero por lo menos han sacado estos artículos de los sex-shops y ahora todos podemos verlos con más naturalidad. ¿Verlos o probarlos?

Yo les voy a presentar la nueva familia que ha llegado este 2011 y que apuesto a que la noche del próximo 6 de enero aparecen en más de un zapato.

Sí, puedes pedirle tranquilamente un Tenga 3D a los Reyes(o le hayan pedido) ya que su aspecto pasa tan desapercibido que absolutamente nadie sospechará que lo que te han traído no es una escultura, una vela o cualquier otro infensivo artículo de decoración. Son cinco modelos, cada uno de ellos con su nombre y textura para un tipo diferente de placer.

Desde los pequeños bloques de diferente profundidad del Module a la textura triangular, bien de forma uniforme como en Pile o asimétrica en Polygon lleno de sorpresas. Yo me pregunto si realmente las sensaciones que experimentas serán tan diferentes dependiendo del modelo que utilices.

Al menos elige el que mejor pegue con la decoración de tu casa. Spiral y Zen basan su forma en una serie de espirales con mayor o menor relieve y completan la colección.

Ya conoces a los cinco enanitos, ahora tú decides si prefieres probarlos o regalarlos para que sean otros los que se apliquen el cuento. El precio de cada uno es de unos 60 dlls. ¿Acaso los mejores regalos no son aquellos que tú nunca te comprarías?, ¿serán o no pequeñas obras de arte? ...probando probando....got leche?

BARTAB map

BAR | CLUB

1 Amsterdam
502 Amsterdam Ave.
www.amsterdamatlanta.com

2 Bellissima
560-B Amsterdam Ave.
www.myspace.com/
bellissima_lounge

3 Blakes on the Park
227 10th St.
www.blakesontheparkatlanta.com

4 Bliss Atlanta
2284 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.blissofatlanta.com

5 BJ Roosters
2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.myspace.com/bjroostersat

6 Bulldogs
893 Peachtree St.

7 Burkhart's
1492 Piedmont Ave.
www.burkharts.com

8 Chaparral
2715 Buford Hwy
www.chaparralalternative.com

9 Eagle
306 Ponce de Leon Ave.
www.atlantaeagle.com

10 Felix's
1510 Piedmont Ave

11 Friends on Ponce
736 Ponce de Leon Ave.
www.friendsonponce-atl.com

12 Gilberts
219 10th St.
www.gilbertscafe.com

13 Heretic
2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.hereticatlanta.com

14 Joe's on Juniper
1049 Juniper St
www.joesonjuniper.com

15 Jungle
2115 Faulkner Rd.
www.jungleclubatlanta.com

16 LeBuzz
585 Franklin Rd SE # A-10
www.thenewlebuzz.com

17 Las Margaritas
1842 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.lasmargaritasmidtown.com

18 Mary's
1287 Glenwood Ave.
www.marysatlanta.com

19 Mixx
1492 Piedmont Ave - B
www.mixxatlanta.com

20 Model T's
699 Ponce De Leon Ave NE
#11. www.modeltatlanta.com

21 My Sisters Room
1271 Glenwood Ave
www.mysistersroom.com

22 Opus 1
1086 Alco St.

23 Oscars Atlanta
1510 Piedmont Ave NE
www.oscarsatlanta.com

24 Swinging Richards
1400 Northside Dr.
www.swingingrichards.com

25 The Cockpit
465 Boulevard Ave
www.thecockpit-atlanta.
blogspot.com

26 The Hideaway
1544 Piedmont Rd NE,
Suite 124. www.atlantahideaway.
com

27 Tripps
1931 Piedmont Circle
www.trippsatlanta.com

28 Woofs
2425 Piedmont Rd NE
www.woofsatlanta.com

29 91
91 Broad St

GYM | SPA

30 Flex
76 4th St.
www.flexbaths.com

31 Gravity Fitness
2201 Faulkner Rd
www.gravityatl.com

32 Manifest4U
2103 Faulkner Road
www.manifest4u.org

RETAIL

9 Rawhide Leather
at the Eagle. 404.881.0031

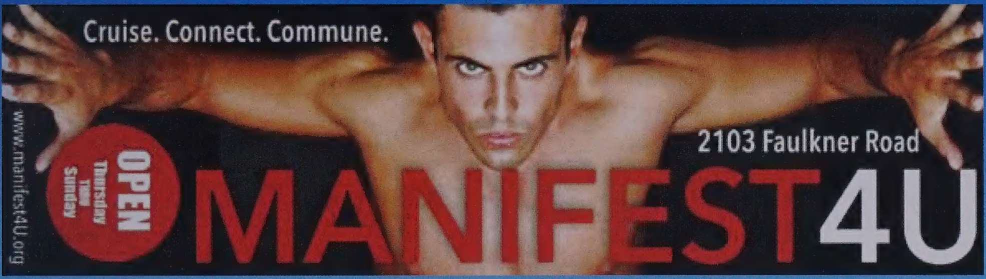
33 Brushstrokes/ Capulets
1510 Piedmont Ave.
www.brushstrokesatlanta.com

34 Boy Next Door
1447 Piedmont Rd.
www.boynextdoor.biz

35 Outwrite Bookstore & Café
991 Piedmont Ave.
www.outwritebooks.com

36 Poster Hut
2175 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.myspace.com/posterhut

37 Southern Nights Videos
2205 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
www.southernnights.com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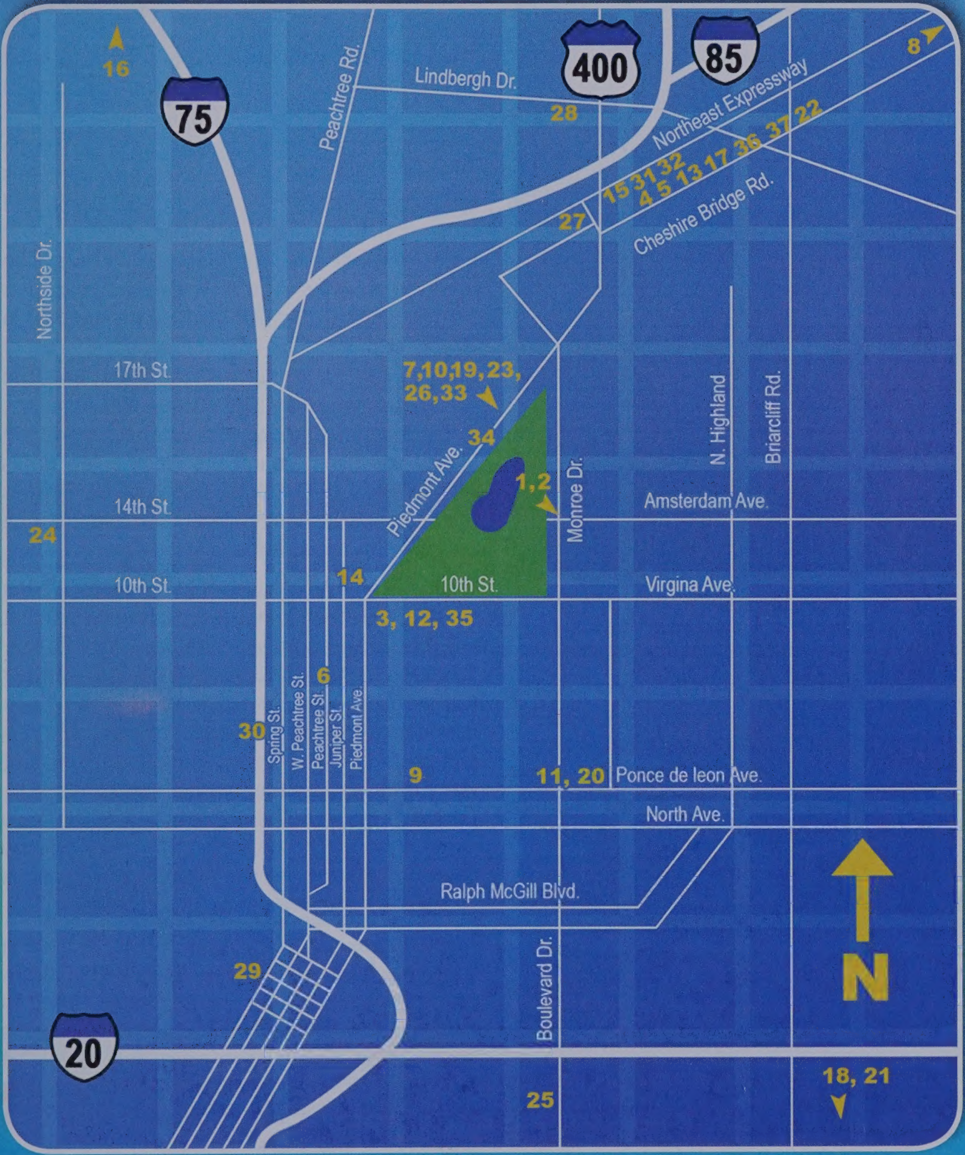
16
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Northside Dr.
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N. Highland
Briarcliff Rd.
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Amsterdam Ave.
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Juniper St.
Piedmont Ave.
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North Ave.
Ralph McGill Blvd.
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18, 21
25

Ani DiFranco

¿Which Side Are You On?

When I talk about Ani DiFranco, people often discount her as an angry lesbian. Don't get me wrong, DiFranco has some angry songs in her catalog but she's been releasing albums since 1990. While there's nothing wrong with being angry, the problem is people have confused anger with a message. She's succeeded through two decades of making music so apparently there's an audience getting the message.

Over the years, DiFranco has become part of a musical family tree that branches from New Orleans to New York. Over the last decade, you've heard her tracks mature, the same way a tree grows and its roots lodge themselves deeper into the ground. While she now calls New Orleans her home, Righteous Babe Records still makes its home in Buffalo, NY. This album features Cyril Neville, Pete Seeger, saxophonist Skerik (Bonnie Raitt, REM, Pearl Jam) and even shows DiFranco's commitment to the principles she espouses by including The Roots of Music Marching Crusaders, part of a music education program for at-risk middle-school students in New Orleans.

The title track Which Side Are You On, a labor anthem written in the 1930's and popularized by Pete Seeger in the 1960's, has been contemporized in the current political and economic climate by DiFranco. On J, DiFranco compares our materialistic society to a drug addiction and laments that it's illegal to smoke marijuana but not to push the need for increased consumption upon the masses. The New Orleans metaphor that permeates the first part of the track is a strong testament to the lingering effects of Katrina. On Promiscuity, DiFranco eschews the fact that promiscuity is bad when she sings " . . . how you gonna know what you need what you like til you been around the block a few times on that bike . . ." The only track in which I miss the message is Amendment, but that may be because I'm not a woman.

While the angry message songs are there, it's the songs of reflection and love (yes, love songs) that are the album's strongest tracks. On If Yr Not, DiFranco sings " . . . if yr not getting happier as you get older then your f***ing up . . ." Upon listening to Hearse, I could only envision the picture of the dog at the soldier's funeral that was plastered over the internet earlier this year. Love can be a powerful emotion and DiFranco sums it up when she sings ". . . I will follow you into the next life like a dog chasing after a hearse . . ."

Ani's albums can sometimes feel a bit uneven but *¿Which Side Are You On?* may be her strongest album since *Little Plastic Castle*. I used to bank on the fact that DiFranco would release an album every 12-18 months, but maybe the 3 year lag between this and 2008's *Red Letter Year* really pays off. Ani, you asked which side am I on . . . yours. B+

Ani DiFranco plays at Variety Playhouse February 3rd.

Top 10 Tracks

1 Mixtape (Blonde P Remix) - Marvin-Paul Ambrosius
2 DJ Ease My Mind - Niki & The Dove
3 Mr. Wrong - Mary J. Blige
4 Alive - Adrian Lux feat. The Good Natured
5 Sonogram - Soul Brother
6 Marry the Night - Lady GaGa
7 Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You) - Kelly Clarkson
8 Shake N Fries - Ludacris feat. Gucci Mane
9 Bad Date - Oh My!
10 Unzip Me - Cazwell feat. Peaches

By Dustin Shelby. Check out more music at Dustin's blog at www.echodust.com

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Denis the Menace

Getting down to earth with one of the scariest men on television

By Chris Azzopardi

Meeting Denis O'Hare should be scary as hell. But today, in the back of homo-hotspot Saint Felix in West Hollywood on his day off, O'Hare doesn't project the eeriness he does as a horny *True Blood* vamp and mysteriously deformed man who just suffocated a potential homebuyer on American Horror Story.

So far during the debut season of the smash FX show, O'Hare, who plays Larry Harvey, has dosed a house in gasoline, killed the-man-of-the-house's mistress and fought fervently for a home that's become a tough sell – and not just because the economy is sucking.

"Murder House," as it's called, is a freaky L.A. residence with a dark past and a new family: the Harmons, a threesome hopeful for a new start. But what's up with the neighbors, including Jessica Lange's crazy super-mom Constance? And who's this Larry guy and why is this house so important to him?

O'Hare leans back after taking a sip of his cranberry/orange/seltzer water concoction – his "incredibly demanding diva drink" – and tells us. "I don't think he's evil. He's acting out of a particular desire for something. For me, all characters have a justification for their behavior; they always think that what they're doing is necessary for a reason. Even *Phantom of the*

Opera has a real reason: He was in love with someone, he was scarred, he wants love and revenge."

O'Hare, at this very moment, just wants some food. He orders a smorgasbord of nibblers that he eats in between talk of Ryan Murphy's *AHS*, the upcoming season of *True Blood* and the new foster child he's caring for with husband Hugo Redwood, who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y. Holding his phone up, O'Hare flips through photos of his family, looking for the one of the kid flashing his happy-as-can-be grin. Like O'Hare's partner, the actor's nearly-1-year-old baby's black, and when he comes upon one pic – of the boy atop O'Hare's lap and a friend's child, who's white, sitting on Redwood – he finally breaks into a maniacal smirk.

"We're the right wing's worst nightmare," O'Hare says. "Wrong colored baby on the wrong person's lap – oh my god!"

And you thought Larry was scary.

Before getting the call from Ryan Murphy desperately wanting O'Hare to take on Larry, the actor was already doing creepy on *True Blood* as the ancient former vampire king of Mississippi, Russell Edgington.

Premiering this summer, season five sees the return of the Master of Nutcases, as the 2,800-year-old bloodsucker makes a return to the set after skipping out on the last go-'round. What's to become of him after rising from the cement he was buried under?

"Nothing I can share," O'Hare says, noting a recent lunch he had with out *True Blood* mastermind Alan Ball, the creator of *Six Feet Under*. "We talked about what's going to happen and I was definitely surprised. It's good stuff. It's always good stuff. With him, and with Ryan (Murphy), they don't go to obvious places. They go where you wouldn't expect them to go."

And so does O'Hare. The actor, who's actually so down-to-earth and non-creepy that he offers to share his food during our hour-long chat, is good at playing bad. He was relentless at getting Sandra Bullock kicked out of the country in rom-com *The Proposal*, and played way against type in *Milk* as Sen. John Briggs, who proposes a California ballot initiative to outlaw gay and lesbian teachers. Recently, O'Hare had a blink-and-you'll-miss-it scene in the Hoover biopic *J. Edgar*, a chance to work again with Clint Eastwood (O'Hare starred alongside Angelina Jolie in *Changeling* as, what do you know, a psych ward bad guy).

O'Hare, who turns 50 in January, got his start where most actors do: on the stage. Growing up in Michigan, he was in choir and, in 1974, landed a chorus part in a community theater production of *Show Boat*. Then it was Broadway, where he played in Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins* in 2004, scored a Tony Award for his performance in *Take Me Out* and was part of the revival of *Sweet Charity*.

In January, O'Hare heads back to New York – and back to the stage. He'll be doing *An Iliad* off-Broadway through March, when he returns to L.A. for *True Blood*.

The best part of being back in N.Y.? Seeing the family. He married Redwood, an interior designer, over the summer, and the two have been caring for their foster child since April.

"I could've gone to my grave without having kids, but I came around to liking the idea," O'Hare admits, noting he warmed up to the thought after seven years of talks with Redwood. "As a gay man, I find my biggest stumbling block was my own homophobia, my own sense of feeling that gay people shouldn't have kids. I felt pressure from society that we're not supposed to have kids" – not to mention, he says, that once you do, it's like wearing a gay yamaka – "and I was also shy about being a spokesperson for gay adoption."

And now he's the gushing father who's looking for just the right pic to show off the kid's smile. His foster child laughs a lot, but how could he not? "I speak to him in bad French," O'Hare says, "and he dies."

O'Hare's encounters with gay couples and their kids helped him shake off his

internalized homophobia, something he says is difficult to diagnose in ourselves, and he finally accepted the idea of having his own with Redwood. "It's been normalized for me," he says, deliberating. "But it's like being married.

"It's so hard to say the word 'husband' at first. I say 'partner,' and then suddenly realize if I say 'husband,' it might be aggressively political – but then it's like, what the fuck? What else am I gonna say? He's my husband. We are legally married."

And how do other people react?

"People are a little shocked at first, but they're gonna get the fuck over it and pretty soon it'll be normal – because it should be normal!"

Part of it, however, is that O'Hare doesn't want everything about him to be "gay". Especially not his acting.

"For me, an actor is an actor. Years ago someone said to me, 'How do you feel about being a gay actor?' I said, 'I'm not a gay actor. I'm an actor. I'm Irish. I'm an atheist. And a bridge player. I ride my bike. Oh, and I'm gay.'"

He fits right in on the set of *American Horror Story*, one of the gay-friendliest projects he's ever worked on. No surprise there: This is a Ryan Murphy production, after all. "I've met more female lesbian gaffers on Ryan's show than I've ever met anywhere else in my life!" O'Hare says.

Because Murphy's schedule is nuts, with *Glee* now in its third season, he doesn't come around the *AHS* set often. But when he does, "he's a great spirit" – no pun intended – "on the set. He's the kind of guy who believes in a world of possibilities. He makes things happen."

"Crazy" is what O'Hare calls the set, shot in the Paramount lot in L.A. right behind the infamous Hollywood Cemetery (as if the show wasn't creepy enough).

"We never really know what we're doing until the day before," he says. "Everyone's cool with it. The scenes, even when they're intense, are fun."

When O'Hare was sent the script directly from Murphy back in March, just a few weeks before shooting, he was immediately intrigued. The show takes cues from many of his favorite horror classics and the legendary names behind them: Vincent Price, Peter Lorre, Bela Lugosi and Martin Landau.

"What I think is great about the show is that Ryan's kind of consciously quoting from great works," he says. "'Don't go in the basement' is one of the biggest horror tropes, or 'don't open the door' – they're all horror tropes, and he's using all of them in a really cool way. And I hear some people say, 'Well, it's unrealistic. Who'd stay in the house?' That's just a given. Let's just let them stay in the house."

Now he's starting to sound a lot like Larry, who's so insistent that the Harmons stick around you wonder what the dude's got up his sleeve. "I think Larry has a very clear overarching goal, which is redemption and release," O'Hare says, "and that is all tied up in the house."

For O'Hare, the role requires three-and-a-half hours of makeup, transforming the actor's face into the questionable burn victim and leaving O'Hare with half of his hearing and sight. On the first day of shooting, Murphy walked him through Larry's limp and shriveled arm. "He's got the vision in his head, so he had to be very clear about what we should to do," O'Hare says, "and I like that about him – he's a very clear director."

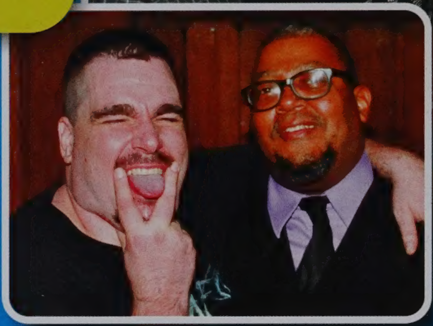
That helps, but with *True Blood*, O'Hare knew what he wanted for Russell Edgington.

"I felt no need to make Russell act gay, because he is gay," he says, adding that because the vamp's so ancient, homosexuality didn't even really exist then, "and I know as a gay man I don't have to demonstrate that I'm gay. The fact that I'm sleeping with a man is the demonstration."

And that's gay?

O'Hare smiles big and non-creepy. "Not always, but for the most part."

NYE @ the Eagle



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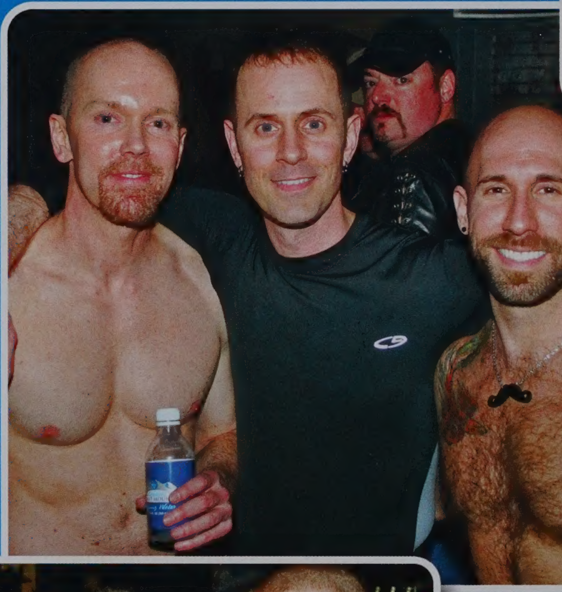

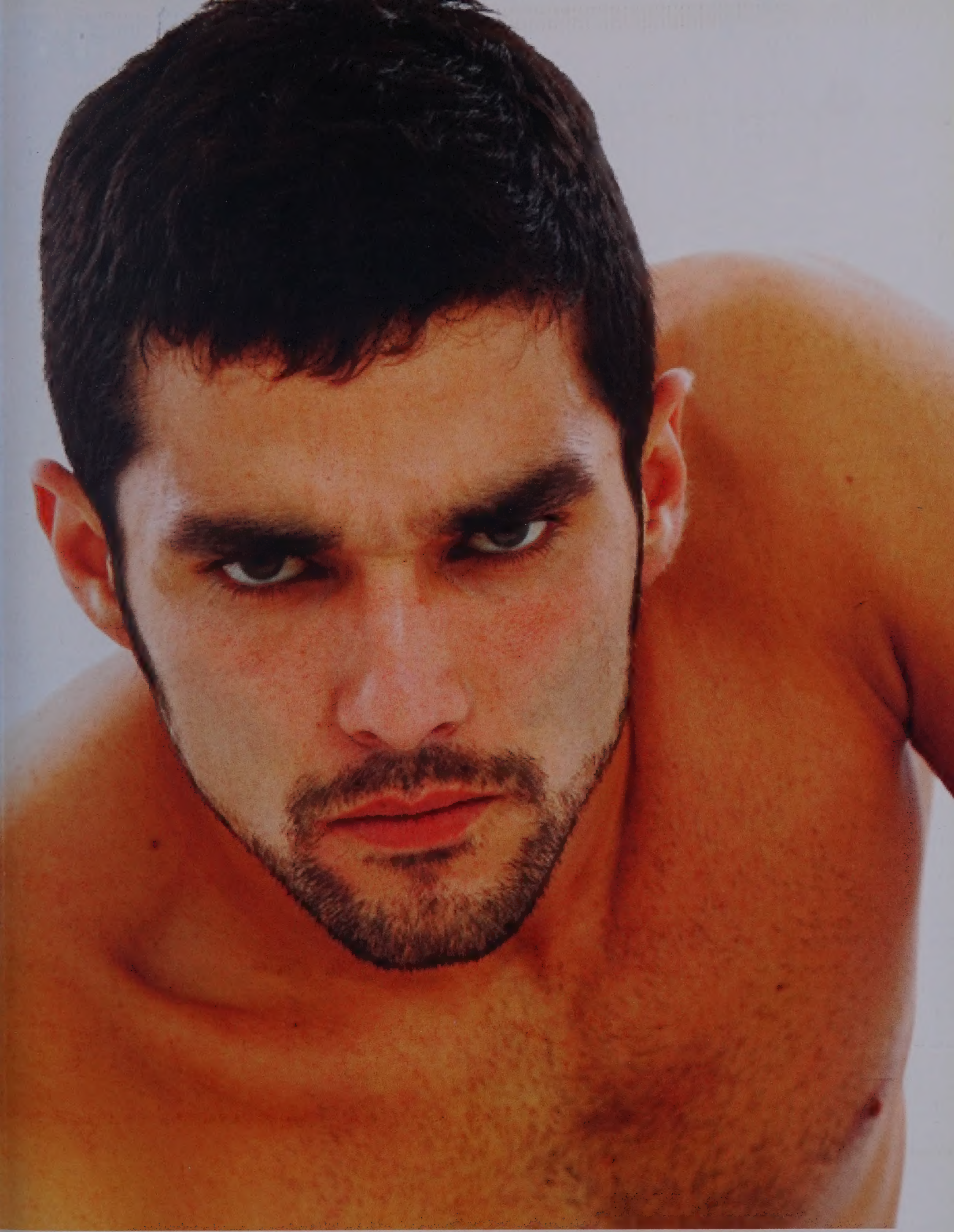

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FRIENDS ON PONCE Bad Boy Brian opens at 2pm

HERETIC Industry Night with Brian; Dance Floor Open @ 10pm

JUNGLE Stars of the Century Show 11pm

THE HIDEAWAY $2.50 Domestic Beer

FELIX'S Free Pool

THE COCKPIT Big Red Cup Mondays All Day & 1/2 Price Appetizers 5-8pm

TUESDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK I Gotta Sing! Hosted by Jealose & Jerry (Karaoke) 11pm

THE EAGLE Tuesdays with Tony

FRIENDS ON PONCE Let's Make a Deal 6pm

HERETIC Time Warp – 70's, 80's, & 90's Music with Paul; Dance Floor Opens 10pm

SWINGING RICHARDS No Cover Before Midnight, $5 After

THE HIDEAWAY Service Industry Night - Employee Prices. Trivia w/ Will 9pm - 11pm

FELIX'S Smirnoff Martini Night

THE COCKPIT DUDE: 80s Party, 9pm & 1/2 Price Appetizers 5-8pm

CHAPARRAL HipHop til 4am, $5

WEDNESDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK Feathers & Flesh Burlesque Revue 11pm

THE EAGLE 80's Music with Travis

FRIENDS ON PONCE Bingo 8pm

HERETIC H.U.M.P Dress Code Party w/ DJ Lydia Prim.

SWINGING RICHARDS 2-4-1 VIP Room

THE HIDEAWAY Craps & Blackjack with Miss Lauren

THE COCKPIT Balls Deep Karaoke, 10pm with Mikey and Wesley &1/2 Price Appetizers 5-8pm

THURSDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK Texas Hold'Em Poker 7pm,
The Shawna Factor Show, 11pm

THE EAGLE Karaoke with Mikey

FRIENDS ON PONCE Where Girls Who Like Girls Meet Girls all night

HERETIC : 3- Legged Cowboy Night @ 10pm; Dance Lessons @ 8pm

JUNGLE Cherry Pop Thursday!

LAS MARGARITAS Crazy Bitch Bingo 7:30pm

SWINGING RICHARDS 2-4-1 VIP Room & 2-4-1 Door Entry

THE HIDEAWAY Levi & Leather Night

FELIX'S Karaoke w/ Brett & Tyler 10pm

THE COCKPIT Dirty Boy Bingo, 9pm w/ Ruby Redd

FRIDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK Kitty LeClaw's Meow Mix Show 11pm

THE EAGLE DJ Dance Party

FRIENDS ON PONCE Happy Times with Bad Boy Brian & Ken

HERETIC Primal Urges with DJ Lydia Prim; No Cover Before 10pm, $5 after

JUNGLE Club Night, Various DJ's

SWINGING RICHARDS T-Shirt Review, $10 Cover

CHAPARRAL Got Leche? til 4am, $10

THE HIDEAWAY After Work Martini Madness

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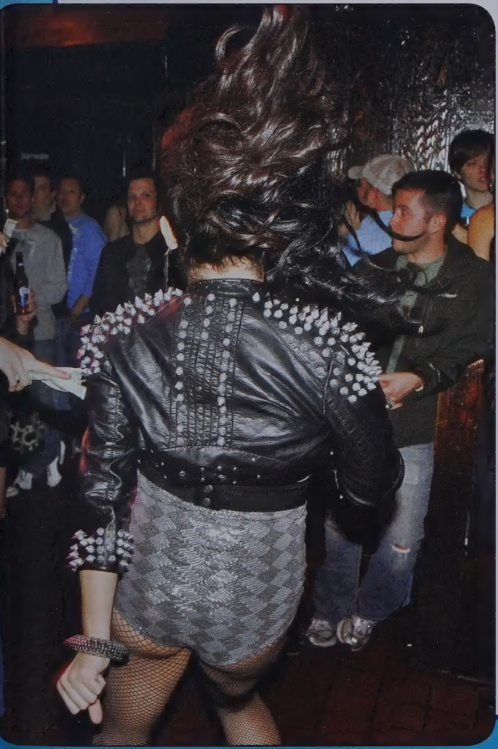

SATURDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK Jealose's Daring Diva's Show 11pm

THE EAGLE DJ Dance Party

FRIENDS ON PONCE Open @ noon with Bob Brewer

HERETIC Club Night, Various Guest DJ's. No Cover Before 11pm.

JUNGLE Club Night, Various Guest DJ's.

SWINGING RICHARDS T-Shirt Review, $10 Cover

FELIX'S Karaoke w/ Brett & Tyler 10pm

THE COCKPIT Rotating VJ's & DJ's, (resident DJ, Diablo Rojo)

SWINGING RICHARDS T-Shirt Review, $10 Cover

CHAPARRAL Dance Party

FELIX'S Karaoke w/ Brett & Tyler 10pm

THE COCKPIT Rotating VJ's & DJ's, (resident DJ, Diablo Rojo)

CHAPARRAL DJ Jay McKracken, $5

SUNDAY

BLAKES ON THE PARK Sunday Brunch 12-3, DJ's Bill Berdeaux and Daryl Cox Spin All Night.

FRIENDS ON PONCE Bad Boy Brian's Smirnoff B Mary Bar 12:30pm

LAS MARGARITAS All You Can Eat Brunch 11am-3pm

THE HIDEAWAY Make Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 12:30pm

FELIX'S Bloody Mary & Mimosa Wallet Pleasers

THE COCKPIT PBR Beer Bust -- Open & Pouring

CHAPARRAL Hip Hop w DJ Truz, no cover

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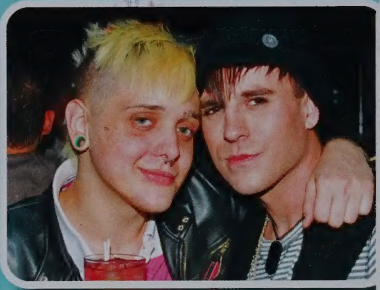

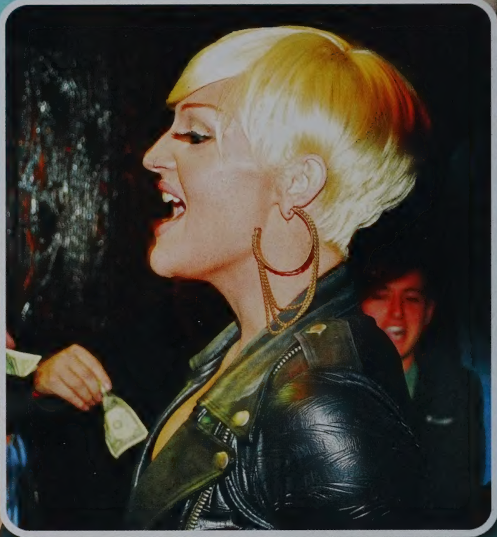

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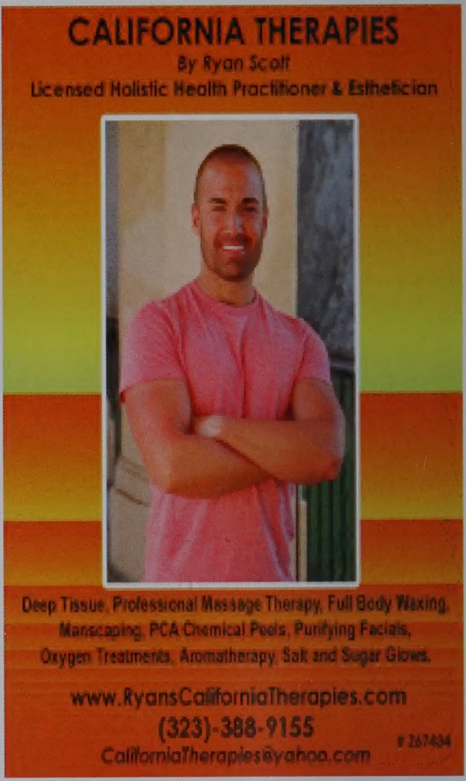

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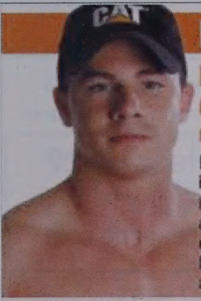

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ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Getting ahead depends on self-discipline, attention to details and questions of skill. Subtle hints from superiors can save you a lot of grief. The Golden Rule may not alleviate confusion in your relationships, but it will make it more manageable.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Worrying about your career doesn't help, but list real concerns and look for practical answers. "Helpful" friends will offer hundreds of ideas. A few of those are actually very good. A relaxing time out would help you restore clarity.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Sexual frustration is about quality, not quantity. The need for emotional depth and commitment may surprise you. If partnered, you're overdue for a good talk. If single, discuss it with someone whose wisdom you respect or write your feelings down.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): It's too easy to obsess on minutiae. Better to clear out garbage and clutter. Your partner or another good friend will be glad to help you decide what needs to go. Let a sibling get saddled with the family keepsakes.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Being sensitive to others will help you get ahead, but don't give away the store; keep terms and boundaries clear. Confusion too easily feeds into arguments. Keeping a critical eye on your own human and material resources can fend off trouble.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): A mad, passionate fling may leave you spinning and wanting more. It's not love, so keep your expectations in check. Your wicked tongue is a potent weapon. Be careful where you aim that thing!

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Would a fleeting, tawdry affair make you feel cheap and used? That could be half the fun. Keep your eyes open and your mind clear. If you do get swept off your feet, you will have to pick up the mess.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Pressure at work is largely in your own head. Largely. Plan long-term strategies, and remember that they will have to be flexible. Burning off energy with some friends will help you from being a pain to your colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Do your best work and let it speak for itself. You don't need to prove anything, especially to family members. When those nagging voices fill your brain, identify where they come from and you can get rid of them.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Even if things have been going well lately, be very careful with your money. A deal that sounds too good to be true is. Set aside a little for an impulsive indulgence. If you can't say anything nice, go chat with Virgo.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Check out an art show with something very new and different, or rent the most outré movie you can find. It could inspire a new look, but test it with a very trusted friend before you take it public!

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Be careful that the only secrets you reveal are your own. Even then the deep personal insights you're gaining should be kept private. Well, mostly. You may find earning power in skills you haven't appreciated.

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M4SN

I love it when young cute boys have bad attitudes. It makes me so glad I date people closer to my age.

My friend left his computer on at my house and now owns 7 birdhouses and is in a relationship with 11 guys on Match.com.

I freaking LOVE all the big bold no-holds-barred drag queens in this city!! Keep up the good work girls!

Marcus Bachman must be devastated that Michelle has suspended her campaign. His options now are to go home and never be a first lady, or get a sex change, get Romney to leave his wife, and become his lover. We are rooting for you Marcus, you big ol' queen!

Blacking out is just your brain clearing its browser history.

To the wanna-be cockblockers in the strip clubs: I go to meet the dancers, not your over-the-hill boyfriend. Get real.

Shocking. You got in another fight, at the same bar, at the same weekly karaoke night? Did you get 86'd this time?

Whoa! Thank you warning label! I was actually considering using my new floor lamp in the shower.

It's freaking amazing how the guys that wouldn't give me time of day a few years ago are flocking all over me now that I am in shape. Guess what, I wouldn't touch your dirty whore asses with a box of Lysol and a hazmat suit.

Is it true that most T-girls are tops? That's what I keep hearing on the grapevine.

GOTTA BITCH?
TEXT 404.969.BTCH
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New Years Resolution: Get Andy Cohen to recast all of the Real Housewives of Atlanta.

Hey congrats David magazine, for showing all of us! Judging by other magazines in this city, you'd think gay Atlanta was all fashion-obsessed white dudes!

Honey, that faux-hawk is soooo 2002.

Simple but true, if you wanna talk shit about me, say it to my face coward.

To my boss: I found the gay porn on your computer, took a photo, and sent it to your wife. Oh also, I quit.

People love to hide behind their computers and cell phones. Then they wonder why they are alone and socially awkward. Have a conversation with people… the kind that are in person!!

I am so sad One Life to Live ended this week. The gays should create a new daytime soap opera to replace it.

Really? How hard is it to respect my gender? It's HE. Not she-he, not she, not it. Just because I grew up as a different gender doesn't change who I am now. Do I call you're straight just because you weren't openly gay at birth? Get with this millenium! And ps, what's in my underwear is none of your business. Unless it's you.

You try to down me for how I acted and looked back in 2006… now in 2012 I've grown into my looks, have a silken body, my own business, own my car, and closing on a home. Where are you renting? What are you leasing?

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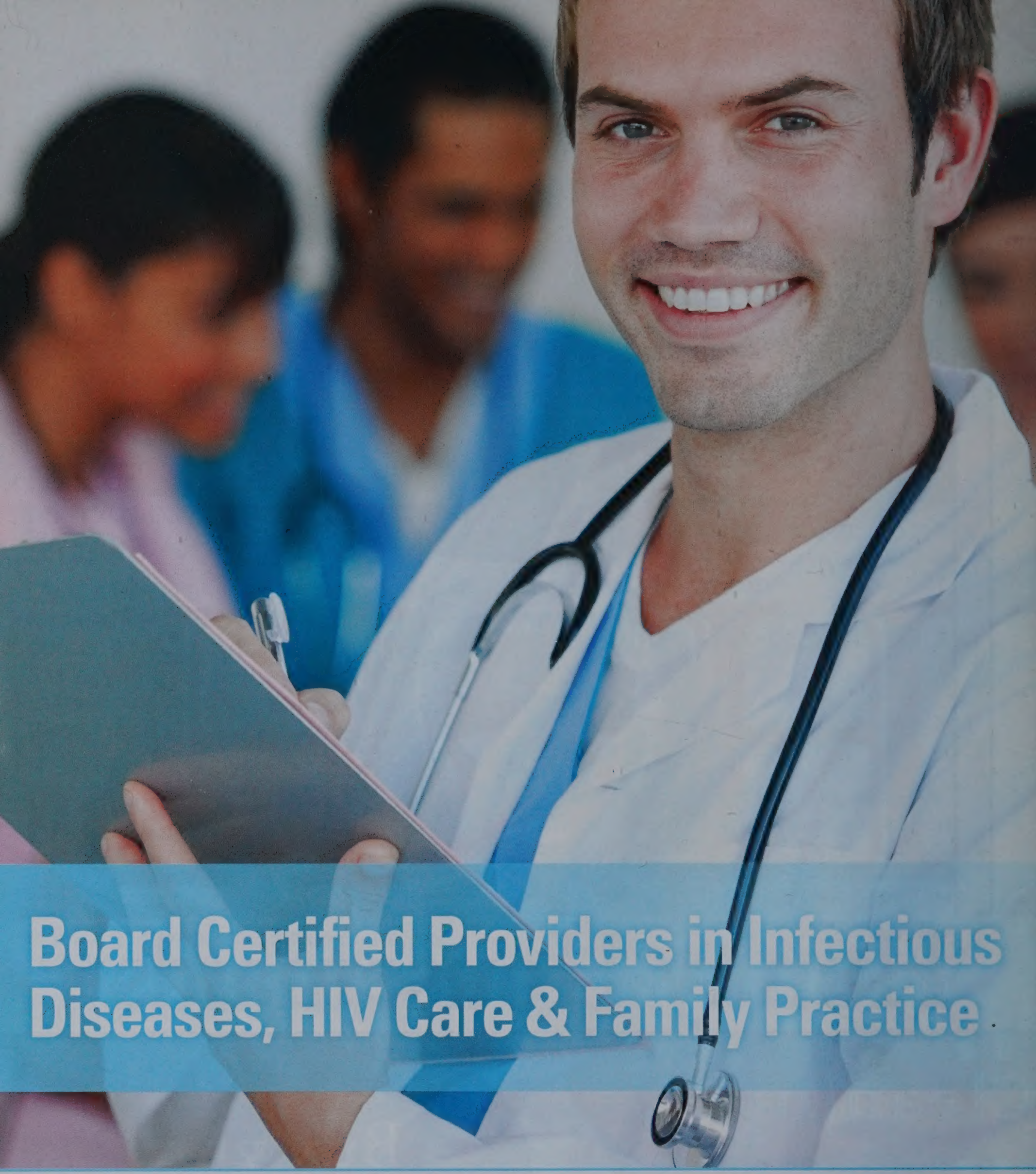
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